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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE APRIL 30, 1992 VOL. 105 NO. 14

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COVER

BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

Reports of so-called near-death experiences are opening a new debate over the nature of life after death. A growing number of researchers in universities and hospitals are devoting themselves to exploring the possibility of an afterlife. They say that the evidence they are gathering will help to explain unexplained parts of the human consciousness—and possibly the universe.

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SPECIAL REPORT

JOHN MAJOR'S SURPRISE

Confounding pollsters and pundits, British voters returned Prime Minister John Major to power last week for the Tories' fourth consecutive majority government. But the economic issues that characterized Margaret Thatcher's reign have been replaced by gloom over the nation's future.

— 32



SPORTS

SETTLEMENT ON ICE

For most of last week, the stakes at-odds taller over an NHL contract seemed to dwarf the drama to oblivion. But like a minuscule third-year coach, league president John Ziegler (left) and players association executive director Bob Goodenow made a last-minute breakthrough, ending a bitter 10-day strike.

— 42





An Unsettling Era

Last week's defeat of Neil Kinnock's Labour Party in its third consecutive attempt to topple a British Conservative government casts a long shadow. It is an example of what is becoming a disturbing phenomenon in Western countries, the inability of mainstream opposition parties to win elections.

As in Britain, there is widespread disillusion with Canada's governing Progressive Conservatives. But neither Jean Chretien's Liberals nor Audrey McLaughlin's New Democrats, despite a strong showing in the polls, seem to have captured the imagination of grass-roots Canadians. And Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is clearly aware of that fact. Last November, he proudly told the Commons that "the thing I look forward to perhaps most in the world is meeting [Chretien] in an election campaign in 1993."

In the United States, the shadow looms darkly over the Democratic party, whose probable presidential candidate, Arkansas Gov. William Clinton, seems equally unlikely to interrupt President George Bush's stunning progress to re-election.

Normally, the current leaders' apparent impotence in the face of the severest recession since the 1930s would have been expected to force Britain's Tory Prime Minister John Major from office—and raised the same prospect for George Bush and Brian Mulroney.

Indeed, in Britain last week, the Conservatives' joy was a result usually of relief at a totally unexpected reverse, rather than of a belief that their policies or their politician campaign had enticed them to re-election. But in Britain, and in Canada and the United States, the mainstream opposition parties seem hamstrung when it comes to fulfilling their role: convincing voters to consider them as worthy successors to incumbent administrations.

As a result, voters are twisting and turning in frustration as they try to broaden their choice. In France last month, the man who benefited from general disgust with the governing Socialists was Jean-Marie Le Pen, a populist of the extreme right, not the centre-right conservative alliance that is the mainstream opposition. In Canada, a significant number of voters are turning to Preston Manning's Reform party, which is courting voter support by seeking to allay suspicions of harboring extreme right-wing policies. In the United States, where there is a more or less permanent constituency for eccentric conservatism, Texas billionaire Ross Perot stuns the sidelines, carefully balancing his chances.

Politics in major Western countries seems to be stalled at the cusp of a revolutionary turning point. It is an unsettling era.

Kim Wylie

McGleens

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LETTERS

'She was the best'

On hearing of Barbara Frum's death, I wondered at the depth of sadness and sense of loss that I felt but quickly realized that I was not alone ("A death in the family," *Obituary*, April 10). *Canoeists* seemed to realize that we had all lost a national treasure. Much has been said about her experience as a broadcaster and interviewer, but if I could think Barbara Frum, it would be for the honesty and sense of morality that she brought to her work. Her respect for human dignity was paramount in all her interviews. She was the best.

Elizabeth Fleming
Kamarray



Frum in 1992: professionalism, compassion and respect for human dignity

The whole nation has indeed been saddened and shocked by the passing of journalist Barbara Frum. A woman of tremendous courage, she has been an inspiration to us all. Her death has left a large void, not only for her family and co-workers, but also for the millions of viewers who feel that that CBC programming has to continue without her. I am sure her memory will live with us all.

Priscilla Stachler,
Corner Brook, Nfld

As you noted, we did indeed have "A death in the family." The loss of Barbara Frum left us shocked and saddened. I was angry to see Canada's newsjournalist relinquish her life's secondary importance as the April 10 cover ("A family affair"), and not accord her the tribute she so deserved. When a highly respected and loved Canadian dies, it is surely more appropriate to dignify your usual cover-story/news-article combination. Barbara Frum's increased greater prominence than the history of the Reichsmann and their real estate adventures.

Donna Gilbert,
Pulaski, BC

The lessons of chance

I would agree from her March 20 column, "How to distinguish Lobotom from Tanya," that Barbara Aronson might need a remedial statistics lesson. She states that, in losing a race, "if it comes up heads five times in a row, you just know"—her ratios, which might add that she is long-haired male—"that the fifth toss has a better chance than 50-50 of coming up tails." This is simply not true. The reason is that the coin has no memory; it does not remember that it is coming up heads four times, and so has no idea that it will not be tails with it. We get stuck on the fifth toss. Despite her flawed analogy, Aronson's conclusion is still right. In

Requiem for the flag

I was saddened but not surprised to read about the pathetic response to the flag students at Trent University who simply wanted the Canadian flag flown at the school on a regular basis ("High-key patriotism," *Opening Notes*, April 6). It was too typical that the rebuttal ("Tying the flag was regarded as something done in *Canada*"), would come from an academic bore. If and when Canada dies a painful death, the response of J. O'Hanlon Cooper will make a suitable inscription on our former nation's tombstone. A country that defines its existence through the shallow virtues of anti-Americanism is doomed to be overtaken by cynicism and ennui.

Janis McClellan,
Vancouver

Mad about monsters

I strongly dispute your lumping in of CK Lwili's film that is one of the best and most higher quality "who use exploitation borders to achieve their goal" ("Small-screen monsters," *Cover*, March 30). Our mandate is to

program a broad range of the best and most significant work of Canadian TV producers, writers and film-makers—period. CK does not make "monster movies." You start your article by incorrectly recounting our reasons for not producing a mini-series about serial killer Clifford Olson—and then continue as if we had made it. Exactly five of the 34 new TV movies and mini-series we have aired in the past four years have been based on real-life crime, and every one of these was a complex examination of the social and psychological factors that led to the traumatic event. By your broad definition, *Marked*, *Obsession* and *Richard* are nothing more than "monster stories." Shakespeare balanced his "crime stories" with comedies, histories and romances. Add family dramas to that list and you have a pretty fair representation of the variety CK offers Canadian audiences every year.

Jon Burt,
Christine Burt,
CK News and Miniseries
Toronto

As an American forensic psychologist who visited Vancouver recently to lecture on psychopaths, I found your March 30 cover story on "Killer movies" both timely and disturbing. Such movies as *Basic Instinct*, compelling as they are, reflect an American society torn between a sexually repressive morality and commercial sexual titillation. The result—a tension that breeds on itself. Basic Instinct's director, Paul Verhoeven, is undoubtedly revealing America's ambivalence towards sexual appetite as he did American ambivalence towards violence in his earlier movie *Total Recall*.

J. Fred Moly,
San Diego, Calif.

Letters may be condensed. Please supply name, address and daytime telephone number. Write letters to the Editor. Letters may appear in *Maclean's* magazine. Review: Maclean's, 111 King St. Toronto, Ont. M5H 1K7. Or by fax: (416) 593-7730.



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OPENING NOTES

The Maple Leaf goes collegiate, a financial man makes a sound investment, and the bilby takes on the Easter Bunny

TRICKS, BUT NO MIRACLES

For Doug Manning, last week's British election was a wake-up experience. The 46-year-old magazine man from Winnipeg, a Natural Law Party candidate in Blackpool South, a residential section of the sprawling Lancashire steel-met, moved voters with such tactics as walking a cat-up bannister while again. That showed, he explained, how a government "all in pieces" could come together if it followed the transcendent teachings of the NLP's spiritual mentor, Mahatma Mohan Yogi. But there was to be no miracle for Manning, or for 330 other NLP candidates, who were widely dismissed by British as fringe politicians. Manning finished last in his local constituency, with 175 votes, behind a Tory winner. The magazine was philosophical, as befits a Mahatma devotee whose party's goal is to create harmony on earth by ruling the world of war, crime and poverty. His Blackpool campaign, he told Manning, was "intimate for future activity." What activity? Manning, who only last month announced plans for Mahatma Yogi Land, a \$1.5-billion theme park in Niagara Falls, Ont., said that he may run the NLP to contest the next federal election in Canada.

Manning: harmony on earth

One happy financier

With some deliberation financial companies in trouble, quite a few companies in that business have been looking over their shoulders lately. But Denis Ryan, 48, senior vice-president of Montreal-based B. G. H. Investment Management Ltd., a Central Capital Corp. affiliate, says that he is not worried about his company's future. In any case, he has another asset—his voice. The former star of the following big group Ryan's Pacey which released 32 hits between 1971 and 1983, returned to the studio last year and recorded 19th studio albums at Atlantic Canada and Ireland. Since Christmas, his respect disc and tape. The *Mat Group* Christmas, has sold 10,000 copies Ryan says that he has no intention of returning to full-time singing. But he adds "The record never to say never again."



Ryan: assets on the record

WORD FOR WORD

RANDOM QUOTES FROM RECENT NEWS RELEASES

The Treasury Board President and Quebec MP Gilles Lefebvre, on a \$645,000 contract to replace windows and exterior painting at Champlain Mariner Station, Quebec City. "The new windows will check the flow of cold air into the building."

The Conference of Defence Associations Institute, on making its annual *Year Award* to Chief of Defence Staff John de Chastelain for his *Gulf War* and *Oka crisis* roles. "Gen. de Chastelain has also spoken publicly, stating that the role of the armed forces in the constitutional debate will be a silent one."

Revolution Canada, on receiving from the U.S. government its share of money transferred in an international drug bust. "National Revenue Minister Otto Jelinek accepted a cheque in the amount of \$807,099.13 (U.S.) for drug assets seized from U.S. Ambassador Edward N. Ney, following an investigation."

AN UPDATE

THE FLAG FLAP AT TRENT

The background: The Trent Development and Space Utilization Committee at Trent University, Peterborough, Ont., reports as special by students to have the Maple Leaf flag on campus every day (CIBC's participation). Opening Notes, April 8.

The plot thickens: Campus Conservative, Liberal and Reform parties, despite "some serious ideological differences," says Jeff Bergeron, president of the student Liberals, rally to the crusade and offer to provide flags.

The showdown: The original crusaders and the three-party opposition have reached the appeal at a six-and-a-half-hour meeting on April 10.

The happy ending: The committee parties, agree to begin flying the flag daily by summer. The negotiated campus parties consider covering a model perimeter.

A HAREY TALE

Few festive images, after Santa Claus, are as popular as the happy go-lucky Easter Bunny, hopping house to house with his basket of goodies for deserving youngsters. But as a Canadian farm group, campaigning against a real-life plague of the lucky bunnies, hopes that Easter, 1992, will be the last that Peter Cottontail hops along the busy trail Down Under: The United Farmers and Stock Owners Association of South Australia aims to replace the bunny as an Easter symbol with the lilly (lily), a headcock, a now-rare kangaroo cat on a house and home by the variegated, more profitable rabbit. Association executive director Peter Day told *Absolutely*: "A chocolate manufacturer

has already expressed interest in making Easter Bunnies." Phrases will go to the newly established Anti-Bilby Research Foundation of Australia. Its target:

Members of the Leporidae family, which is worldwide and at 30 million years old. The rabbit, its members herbivorous and timid, comes in about 70 varieties, including cottontails, European, swamp and desert breeds.



Bilby: a pious for insect message by Easter, 1992

will be the last that Peter Cottontail hops along the busy trail Down Under: The United Farmers and Stock Owners Association of South Australia aims to replace the bunny as an Easter symbol with the lilly (lily), a headcock, a now-rare kangaroo cat on a house and home by the variegated, more profitable rabbit. Association executive director Peter Day told *Absolutely*: "A chocolate manufacturer

The shrubby hare branch of the family, its young born furrow and spotted, includes the exotic hare and the misnamed jackrabbits and snowshoe rabbit.

Fertility symbols since ancient Egypt's holy hare, rabbits breed like—well, like rabbits. Gestation takes only a month, each litter numbers up to 70, and a doe (female) may re-mate within 10 hours of giving birth.

On average, a doe rabbit produces five litters of six offspring a year, mainly in the peak February to mid-July period, expanding the immature family to 30. In fact, the females in her earliest litter can reproduce ones that peak in half of that early litter. In female, there are three eggs typically and 60 grandchildren, by ensuring that family total is 50 before the year is out. With an average life span in the wild of two to three years, a female may become a great-grand-grandmother before passing on.



Think-tank on the move

Founded in 1972, funded by federal, provincial and private money, the Institute for Research in Public Policy has spent much of its life warring around. First based in Montreal, its level often moved successive presidents to Halifax, Ottawa and Victoria. It is now back in Ottawa. A Halifax office publishes an 18-year journal, *Policy Options*. Editor Walter Stewart is based north of Toronto. Last year, the IIRP spent \$15 million on scattered operations and research contracts. Now, its latest president, Montclair Manager Jerome Fargitt, a former federal and Quebec businessman, will consolidate operations in Montreal at the behest of a majority of his directors. Stewart, among others, objected, and his contract will expire with 1992. Jerome Fargitt, co-chair of two recent national conferences, says that if Quebec secedes, "it could be a different context, but it's a smaller context." But if the directors ordered the IIRP to move from its Montreal office? "Just saying it would be very easy."

A dream on ice

Toronto publishing circles buzzed last week with reports that Toronto Sun publisher Gary Chapman and Douglas Chapman were ready to accept a surprise candidate for the publisher's job at the company's *Financial Post* newspaper: Canada's ambassador to Washington, Derek Barney. The move seemed a sure non-event. "I have a job, I have no intention of leaving it." In fact, Barney intends that he is a serious negotiator with Chapman. But they also say that the job of publisher, as dramatic, is a private-sector perch that would require his



Barney: how non-event?

diplomatic skills—never seen so when now *American Theater* Box Office, midsize hockey star recruited into the Montreal Canadiens farm system, and now in Washington. Barney, 46, is a private-sector perch that would require his

PASSAGES

DIED: Profile: American and on *Seas*: *Seas*, 73, of cardiac arrest, in a New York City hospital. He wrote almost 500 books, including popular-science books, a memoir, a 1,500-page autobiography and even a commentary on the Bible, but he was best known for his science fiction. Many of his predictions became reality, including assembly-line robotics, pocket computers and space walks. Last month, he finished *Seas*'s 15th novel in a series about a future humanity spread across the stars. Once asked what he would do if he knew he had only six months to live, *Seas* replied, "Type faster."

DISCLOSED: By team legend *Antar* Aube, 48, that he was 43. Aube, who was the first black man to win Wimbledon, in 1975, when he defeated defending champion Jimmy Connors, said that he contracted *Onion* virus, known to cause the fatal disease, through a blood transfusion in 1983 during a heart operation. Aube was the second minor U.S. athlete in five months to acknowledge having the virus. Last November, Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Earvin (Magic) Johnson disclosed that he was HIV-positive.

DIED: Business pioneer Samuel H. Barlow, 74, who built his Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and the largest American retail chain, of complications from bone cancer, at a hospital in Little Rock, Ark. Starting with one store in 1962, he enlarged his empire to 1,945 discount outlets. Last year, *Forbes* magazine ranked him one of the top 100 richest Americans, with a net worth of \$5.1 billion each.

DIED: Hockey star Irvin (Axe) Belfrage, 48, in a Toronto hospital, after suffering a stroke. Belfrage's eight-season career with the Toronto Maple Leafs ended in 1970 after Boston Bruin Eddie Shore



A collection of various mobile communication devices. On the left is a beige corded telephone with a numeric keypad. In the center is a mobile phone with a large antenna and a numeric keypad. To the right is a black PDA with a screen and a numeric keypad. In the foreground is a black flip phone with a numeric keypad.

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have no trouble finding what you need for your home or office. And since you're not always there to answer the phone, choose from our large selection of answering machines.

One of the more awful moments of the British election campaign appeared last week on page 3 of the London tabloid *The Sun*. There, in the place where a pretty topless girl sporting a soap suds and plentiful bosom usually appears, was a thoroughly unappealing older woman with a potbelly and elbows as wrinkled as mine. "Here's how page 3 will look under *Raincoat*!" was the headline.

The British press is anything but neutral in covering domestic elections, and of the 13 daily papers in London, all but three went for the Conservatives. This covers out the strong anti-Tory bias of the four major television stations. One might say that John Major's victory was given to him by a coalition of God and the Tory press.

One might say that and not be wrong, but to say so would overlook one very important factor: the victory of Nagy was also a fourth

incoercible rebuff of Labour. The British people, like most people everywhere in the world except Ontario, hate socialism. Not Kenwood's Labour Party may have put on their least prescribed veil, cloaked with soft words and reassuring statements, but the voters could not forget what socialism has done to Britain in the past.

The Tory majority was reduced, as it should have been, given the dreadful manner in which the party has made its handling of the recession. But they with Margaret Thatcher was barely off her Caneville from New York City on election night, but she had no doubts even before the first result came in. "The British people don't want socialism, won't have it and they will resist it," she told me.

That vulgar picture of the ugly woman at the page 31 pot-hole is the story. Though it sounds like a crude bit of campaigning, buried as it was a basic truth: a Labour government would have been a government that told people what sort of pro-pops they would be allowed to see. This sort of thing is common to most of the British who retain some common sense and little

patience for the lunatics of the left that, in the name of social engineering, would deny them their pay-raises and a morning cigarette.

Socialism has brought every country that has had it to its economic knees. Like any statist system, which centralizes power and regulates human affairs much more than a necessary, machine-driven enterprise and productivity. The British have rejected socialism because they know what it leads to. Canada has never really lived under it, and only now in Ontario are people beginning to discover what it means. It means that the very best people try to leave the country for the United States while business simply bypasses the province, or declines.

The economic hardships under socialism have always worried me less than the way in which it diminishes human liberty and dignity—I go potty over the way in which socialists try to steal my liberty. Canada's Liberals are

Fragmentary Conservatives may have had half-wits in power, but it is the *WIC* that wants to legislate what foods I may eat, how females should be depicted on television or what the composition of my employer's or board of directors ought to be. Though many of these policies were begun in the mainstream political parties

What I do doubt about strictness of the bill or right-wing variety is its lack of tolerance. Success, which a wise socialist art, cannot stifle people who have their own views and opinions. Strict of their legislation that seeks to prevent us from having anything but the politically correct view about such things as the desirability of heterosexual arrangements rather than homosexual ones, or abortion, or native rights. The wrong view of such topics is the thought that dare not speak its name. Some of these views may be silly, of course, some may be wise. But the point is that people ought to be free to hold any view they want, state them and act on them, as long as they do not cause anybody harm or abuse.

That sort of tolerance is long gone under the writer of so-called human rights legislation and criminal law we have now brought in under the pressure of the left. Actually, I was reminded of this when I read a letter to the editor from NDER Gerald Caplan, complaining of Moore's "dishonest, right-wing yellow journalism" after it published my column attacking Bob Rae of "economic consequences."

I always rather liked Gaglian, even when he excoriated me in our television debates. I even wanted to the honor he expressed over my love of the free market. Still, I suppose over the years one gets a bit more prickly and perhaps debates were a few sessions.

But those who are so classified as right of centre in Canada have learned to be a little more tolerant of differing points of view. We subscribe to the Toronto Globe and Mail even though one has to turn to the business section to find the paper's only crime-rig columnist. On any rainy day in the past decade or two, we have often propped up the paper's letters while our restless dogs sniffed the Great Canadian Soviet Union as two pillars of coal. I refrained from taking a final cut of Captain's book and calling the Globe an example of "infamous yellow journalism," even though that now seems a rather apt response to its celebration of Mao Tse-tung on the occasion of his death as the "Great Hanseaticist." Here, on the night-side of the coin, we get our own view. We assume that good writing can be found on a page or two away from heated points of view.

Still, I can sympathize with Caplan. The days are numbered for Ontario's SOG, and the British election is yet another straw in the wind for the way the world turns. It has turned against socialism, and it must make one very short-tempered to be the last person-on-earth to feed that out.

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A PEOPLE'S CHOICE

THE GOVERNMENT SHOWS NEW SIGNS OF SUPPORT FOR A CROSS-COUNTRY REFERENDUM ON NATIONAL UNITY

Since his election in September, 1984, Conservative Patrick Boyer has earned a reputation as one of the most thoughtful—and daggered—members of the House of Commons. In the past 10 years, the 47-year-old lawyer has written seven books on parliamentary reform, including those advocating the use of national referendums in federal decision-making. And twice since 1980, the Toronto-area MP has introduced a private member's bill that would create the legislative mechanisms to allow for such nationwide votes, although his efforts were subsequently shelved or ignored by fellow Tories. But on Parliament Hill last week, following Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's declaration of support for a referendum on constitutional reform, Boyer appeared to be a man whose time had finally come. Declared a "bearded Roger," "a guy who was saying that I was crazy two weeks ago and now saying that they knew I was right all along."

That sudden burst of support was just one sign of the growing likelihood that Canadians will be asked to vote on their country's future—again, and, conceivably, for the first time. A national referendum would probably take place early in the fall. At week's end, a senior Tory strategist told *Maclean's* that a referendum on national unity "is now far better than a 50-50 possibility." But he conceded that federal officials still face many more questions than answers about the legislation—and ramifications—of the vote. "NORM CHANDLER JACKSON, director of consultations for Elections Canada—"This is all hypothetical. There are a lot of technical things that have to be done."

In fact, Tory advisers acknowledged that the government has done little research into the process and is surprised for such a campaign. Among the issues raised by skeptics within the party, and still unresolved by strategists, is whether to stage a plebiscite—a



Mulroney with members of his election campaign team prepared for a gambble

results of which would not be binding on the government—rather than a referendum, after which the government would legally be obliged to abide by the outcome. Also unclear is whether the government would claim victory even in a constitutional proposal failed to win majority support in all parts of the country—and whether the dangers in national unity of losing a referendum outweigh the potential advantages of holding a vote. Declared *Maclean's* Saskatchewan premier Allan Rocker, "Nobody who is alone the mental age of 13 would undertake this without at least contemplating what would happen if they lost."

Although Mulroney himself appears inclined to take that gamble, Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark clearly would rather not. In France last week, Mulroney said that he is

prepared to hold a national referendum by October (Quebec is obliged to hold a plebiscite not on sovereignty but on whether its government remains a negotiated settlement with the provinces before then). Declared the Prime Minister, "I will not sit idly by and allow damage to be done to Canada without putting proposals to the Canadian people." Advisers to Mulroney say that the referendum proposal—originally conceived as a means of probing the provinces' attitudes to an agreement—is now increasingly favored by the Prime Minister's own ministers. Said one Tory adviser: "He would love a referendum campaign. [He had] a real belief that if he got into that and confronts his enemies, he will do really well." Ben Clark and several other senior Tories remain privately doubtful. Declared Boyer: "Joe has always

been suspicious of putting this kind of thing into the hands of the people, and I see no reason that he has changed his view."

Similar uncertainties were evident last week at a two-day constitutional meeting in Halifax involving federal, provincial, territorial and native leaders. Although the prospect of a national referendum was not on the official agenda, it surfaced as an issue early in the discussions. Several governors, including Prince Edward Island's Joe Ghis and Newfoundland's

Clyde Wells, endorsed it in principle. And in Montreal, Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, who has advocated constitutional reform since the 1990 death of the Meech Lake accord, and then he "understood" Mulroney's support for a referendum in all 10 provinces. Federal officials acknowledged that Bourassa's test support is crucial, and they added that they likely would have reached the plan if he had disagreed. But Ontario Premier Bob Rae, officials from Nova Scotia's delegation and Alberta's long-governmental Allan Rocker were noticeably cool to the proposal. Said Bourassa to an interviewer: "You could create long-lasting divisions."

Alberta and its almost certain to be at the center of some of those constitutional dramas. By the end of last week's Halifax meeting, a consensus began to emerge on several contentious issues regarding the question of granting "distinct society" status to Quebec. Clark's aide said that the participants had engaged in a "coming together" even though some, among them Newfoundland's Wells, continued to express reservations. The meeting also concluded with an agreement to recognize the inherent nature right to self-government in the Constitution, although concerns remained about the practical details of implementing that right. But strategists in all three major federal parties still say that it is unlikely that the negotiations will succeed by the May 31 federal election, because they would require Alberta's Premier Donald Getty will likely reject any agreement that fails to give each province an equal number of seats in a reformed Senate.

THE REFERENDUM LANDSLIDE

Nearly nine out of 10 Canadians want the federal government to hold a national referendum on the country's future. Asked how the constitutional crisis should be settled, they responded:

By a national referendum	46%
By Parliament and the provincial legislatures	11%
Both	42%

Source: *Maclean's* October poll published Jan. 6, 1992

been stumbling block in a federal-provincial agreement is the continuing unpopularity of the Mulroney government. To overcome that obstacle, Tory strategists are planning a pushback of alliances with the federal Liberals and New Democrats, as well as most of the 10 provinces. Said Mulroney: "If the federal government does it [referendum], it runs a large risk of being regarded as a product of the Mulroney government, and therefore it would be declined." Liberal Leader Jean Chrétien, who advocated a

National Notes

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, French President François Mitterrand and 14 surviving Canadian veterans, ranging in age from 90 to 100, paid tribute to the 3,500 Canadians who died in the capture of Vimy Ridge in northeastern France during the epic First World War battle 75 years ago—a victory many historians cite as the event that prevented Canada with a short sense of independence. Mulroney praised the fallen soldiers for demonstrating "one of the finest examples of bravery since the foundation of Canada." Later, the Prime Minister travelled to Dieppe, on the coast of northern France, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous Second World War raid at which 907 Canadians died and another 1,348 were taken prisoner.

A PRIEST ON TRIAL

Rev. Laurence Lorne Bear, locked, cuffed and usually unaided inmates at Rega's Boies House for troubled youth between 1973 and 1983, according to court testimony by former Boies residents. Several of the former residents testified to the alleged abuse at the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench trial of the 60-year-old Roman Catholic priest, who has pleaded not guilty to nine charges of assault, one charge of indecent assault and one charge of sexual assault. Lorne, who was the Order of Canada in 1982 for his work in the homes that he founded in 1971, will begin presenting his defense this week.

DAVINE WARNINGS

More than 180 U.S. reporters, academics and government officials attended the Washington launch of a new book, *The Collapse of Canada?* which suggests that Quebec sovereignty might provide other provinces to join the United States. The book, published by the influential Washington-based Brookings Institution think-tank, also warned of potential violence during secession, stating that "it is probable to assign Quebec's armed with heavy ordnance and 'sniff' areas during the transition to independence."

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

Federal Environment Minister Jean Charest released a report declaring that Canada has made almost no progress in halting the degradation of its forests, wildlife, water, soil and air. The 732-page study, based on six years of research by Environment Canada officials and academics, added that Canadians have been "lacking an awareness" about the need to protect the environment.

STEPPING INTO THE FRAY

From the front seat of a white United Nations jeep, Maj. Peter Devlin has witnessed firsthand the destruction of war. Despite his recent service with the Canadian Forces, the 33-year-old officer from London, Ont., admits surprise at the wide-scale damage that he has observed on daily reconnaissance missions in Croatia, where he is part of an international peacekeeping force. "Some of the small villages have been completely leveled," he told *Maclean's* last week. "There are very few houses in the rural areas that have roofs of glass left, and the belongings of many houses have been scattered. It is very sad to see." And at night, Devlin has heard the echo of distant gunfire as militiamen fire their weapons indiscriminately to prevent control of their territory. "Terribly you would hear it every night," he said. "But as each day goes by, it is less frequent and less intense than at the beginning."

On March 26, Devlin, from November's Geneva, part of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment based in Baden, Germany, arrived in the war-torn country to prepare to lead 230 other soldiers. But despite Croatia's dangers and the difficulty of leaving behind July, his wife of seven years, and their two small children, John and Laura, Devlin to say that wearing the peacekeeper's trademark blue helmet is the opportunity of a lifetime. "Without a doubt, the chance to be here and to do something as exciting as this is an honor," he said. "Most Canadian soldiers would have done anything to be part of it."

For Canadian peacekeepers, the Croatian mission is another as a long list of risky UN operations. Since 1949, when Canadians formed part of an ad-hoc group that stood between the warring armies of India and Pakistan in disputed Kashmir, Canada has participated in every major UN mission to the world's hot spots, from the Belgian Congo to the east-Indo-Chinese border to the 1,000 Canadian troops who form part of the 12,000-member UN contingent in what was once Yugoslavia, helping

CANADIAN TROOPS IN CROATIA SYMBOLIZE THE NEW ACTIVISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

the shaky ceasefire between bitter ethnic rivals in southeastern Europe. For one thing, it is the first time that the United Nations has policed a truce in Europe. And the current mission also underscores a new willingness to get involved in major disputes within a shattering federation. "The role of the UN," said Ambassador Valeriy Lashin, Russia's acting representative on the Security Council, "has taken on a new dimension to ensure the peace rights and the safety of life inside a country." Added Austria's UN ambassador, Peter Hohenstein: "The Berlin Wall of non-interference has crumbled."

Certainly, the United Nations has expanded its role in resolving world conflicts. Since 1986,



Canadian peacekeepers in Sarajevo during fires of the post-Cold War world

the organization has mounted 10 new peacekeeping operations, compared with 23 in the previous 40 years. By the end of May, the number of blue berets deployed worldwide will surge to 64,000 from 11,500 in February. That the United Nations' worldwide success rate carries a high price tag. The authorized bill for peacekeeping will triple from \$2.1 billion to \$3.2 billion by April, 1993. "I don't think we can go on much longer at the present rate," said Murray Gooding, state secretary general in charge of peacekeeping. "The status is very fluidly worked. We are close to the breaking point."

But financing the growing operations hasn't been the only predicament the United Nations. The body's increasingly international role has brought new countries to question that the East-West rivalry which paralyzed the Security Council during the Cold War have been replaced by a deep divide among the world's wealthy, industrialized North against the impoverished South. Officials of many poorer countries worry openly that the United Nations will find reasons—such as training terrorists or human

rights abuses—to fire its so-called muscle and violate their sovereignty.

But, opinions and every peaceable members of the United Nations' headquarters in Manhattan—over disagreements along the lines of the group last October. "It's bloody long hours and no weekends," said the 54-year-old Gooding, who assumed his current responsibilities last January when Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali streamlined its operations. Gooding's new 11th floor office shows signs of his recent move, and of frequent absences that break from visits to peacekeeping missions abroad. Relief maps of the world's trouble spots—from the Middle East to Central America—are in a stack on the office floor. "Some nights at 12:30, I'll be poring a freeze as peacekeeping," he jokingly confesses.

Gooding is no stranger to conflict. While he was inspecting Bosnia's mountainous UN-controlled territory in southern Lebanon last February, a pro-Israeli militia fired over his head. And he admits to being acutely aware of the danger that Yugoslavia was going to be damned. "I saw that Yugoslavia was going to be damned," he said. "The shrapnel risk came that we are going to get down into hostilities

elsewhere, not just in the Serb-populated part of Croatia."

The most volatile of those areas is the newly independent country of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The former Yugoslav republic of 4.3 million people, situated between Serbia and Croatia, was officially recognized last week by a number of countries, including Canada. There, ethnic Serbs, opposed to secession, have battled Bosnian Muslims who support independence. And the escalating conflict clearly worries UN officials. Said Gooding: "The past few days of fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been pretty dramatic and have reinforced the doubts that the secretary general had about this operation."

But despite the many concerns, the United Nations has enjoyed recent success. Lasting comprehensive peace agreements in Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique and El Salvador—where the organization has either established transitional governments or held regional polls to prepare for free elections—Gooding said that the nature of peacekeeping is radically changing. In many cases, he said, "we are helping the parties to implement something that has already been agreed." That is a departure from the traditional practice of simply

World Notes

PERU'S IRON GUAP

In what critics denounced as a coup, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori dissolved Congress, ordered the arrest of opposition politicians and sent troops into the streets. Fujimori said that the crackdown was necessary to halt corruption and strengthen the army's hold in crushing a 15-year-old guerrilla insurgency. But in Washington, President George Bush called for the restoration of democracy and ordered the suspension of about \$300 million in U.S. aid to the South American country.

NORWEG'S BLEAK FUTURE

Following a seven-month-long trial, a 16-year-old former Peruvianan detainee Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega faced his night out of 10 days and extradition charges. Prosecutors claimed that Noriega, who surrendered to U.S. troops following the December 1989 invasion of Panama, had demanded millions of dollars in bribes from the Medellin cocaine cartel in exchange for protecting Florida-based drug shipments from Colombia. Noriega faces up to 128 years in prison when he is sentenced on July 10.

A FRACTURED PARLIAMENT

In voting for July's 21st general election since 1945, the 34-party coalition of Prime Minister Ciriaco DeMasi won a slender majority of 55 seats in the 620-seat lower house of Parliament. Among other contenders, the former Communists of the Democratic Party of the Left took 140 seats, the Socialist League, demanding autonomy for northern parts of the country, won 55 seats. Analysts said that DeMasi must forge new alliances to form an effective government.

ABAJAI'S HARBOR ESCAPE

Philippines celebrated the survival of 100 thousand Yacht Araya, whose plane made a crash landing during a mission over southeastern Libya. Three crew members were killed in the crash, which left Araya, 82, injured but without serious injuries.

A SPLIT ON SANCTIONS

European Community foreign ministers agreed to end an oil embargo against South Africa and formally lifted sanctions on exporting and importing goods. But a vote to end the oil embargo was not taken. In Cape Town, External Affairs Minister Barbara McGonigall said that Canada and most other Commonwealth nations would not follow the EC lead until agreement is reached on a comprehensive South Africa's transition from white-minority rule to democracy.

THE PRICE OF WAR AND PEACE

A COST COMPARISON

Cost of 42-day-long Gulf War	\$72.4 billion
Cost of 15-month Cambodian peacekeeping operation	\$2.3 billion
Annual cost of other UN peacekeeping forces	\$1.5 billion
Cost of one F-117A Stealth fighter plane	\$50.6 million

(All figures estimates. Source: U.S. defense department, U.S. Air Force, United Nations.)

keeping warring factions apart until they can negotiate a lasting peace.

During the world's post-Cold War era, it just isn't an expression of the new vigor at the United Nations. Preventing new crises—or engaging in "preventive diplomacy and peace building," as diplomats refer to it—is another priority. "It is a necessary new role of the United Nations," he said, "a career British diplomat who joined the peacekeeping service in 1985. But, he cautioned, "We must be very careful not to intrude. It is still necessary to wait for an invitation from the country or countries concerned that they want our help."

Indeed, Third World diplomats insist that the United Nations must not become the policeman of the world. And they express concern that the

Soviet—where it has become almost impossible to provide humanitarian relief—the most difficult constraint may be funding. "The American states are very interested in using the technique of the UN to control and involve conflicts—but the message has not got through to their taxpayers," Gouding complained. And he argued that the cost of peacekeeping is considerably lower than such undertakings as last year's Persian Gulf War. Said Gouding: "Compared with \$1.5 billion [U.S.] a day for Desert Storm, peacekeeping is not such a bad deal."

Still, the budget agencies has threatened to stall the massive deployment of troops and equipment to Cambodia. And last week, Bosnia-Goliad exploded Greek and Turkish Cypriots that the 35-year-old UN mission in the

circumstances. "It has sometimes been criticized as the Pepsi-Cola operation," he said. "But we think that the UN should be more creative in involving the private sector." Perhaps more seriously, some UN diplomats have suggested a one-per-cent levy on arms sales, which they say would generate \$2 billion in additional revenues. As well, they are considering a new tax on international airline tickets that would bring even more money into UN coffers.

Far removed from the bureaucratic problems at UN headquarters, Maj. Peter Devlin travelled throughout the shell-shocked countryside around the small Croatian town of Duvno last week, scoring suitable sites for UN checkpoints and observation points—and meeting the local people. The war's welcome that he re-

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

The 11 active UN peacekeeping missions worldwide, when they were established and their size, including Canadians



rarely uncoloured Security Council might use human rights abuses as an excuse for UN intervention. "Human rights violations do not give the UN a license to interfere," said Marouk's UN ambassador, Jorge Montiel. Added Morocco's ambassador, Ahmed Shoua: "The UN should not become a competitor or rival." Many diplomats agree that conflict countries must improve the growing gap between risk and job throughout the war at the United Nations primarily hopes to ward off new and perhaps bloodier battles. Agreed Austria's Rosenbeller: "We may face a much bigger challenge at the end of the century if we ignore the problems of development, economics and population that are rocking the Third World now."

Even the United Nations considers such bold actions as intervening in the local civil war in

Mediterranean would be soiled back unless the parties agree new peace efforts. The Canadian government has also said that it may pull its 570 troops out of Cyprus by year's end unless progress is made. Gouding lamented the perpetual funding crisis, which means that the UN forces cannot even keep basic peacekeeping equipment in stock. Said Gouding: "Each time, we have to start from scratch and raise money, generators and vehicles."

Staying out of his large office windows that frame a giant once sign of a Pepsi-Cola battle across the river, Gouding reverted to careful diplomatic talk of "possibilities at the moment" when asked to comment on a plan put forward by Russia to allow multinational corporations to fund the UN's underfunded peacekeeping operations. But Russia's Latsynsky was not so

convinced, said Devlin, convinced him that the presence of the Canadian troops in the spirit of the war-weary villagers. Many of those who had fled the fighting were now returning to their tiny, damaged homes. "Each and every day, I notice a change," he said. "It is very rewarding to know that you are part of a force that is restoring confidence in the people." With considerable pride, he added: "Life is slowly but surely returning to normal. People are starting to smile much more than they used to." Such expressions of gratitude were a promising sign that the difficult decisions made in New York bring welcome relief to once-battered towns like Duvno.

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JOHN MAJOR'S SURPRISE

**BRITISH VOTERS
RETURN THE
TORIES FOR A
RECORD FOURTH
STRAIGHT TERM**



John Major had every right to be proud—most foolishly. The British prime minister had defied the odds and outmaneuvered the pollsters to win fourth straight victory for his Conservative Party

in the face of his country's worst recession in half a century. Even though his victory was punctuated by a devastating terrorist car bomb in central London, it was a striking personal triumph. It gave Major his own electoral mandate and a chance to escape the long shadow cast by his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher. But when he returned to 10 Downing Street at dawn on Friday, Major displayed the relatively low-key approach that had proven so successful for him. Typically understated, all he would say was, "It's nice to be back."

Until the vote was counted, experts had confidently predicted a tight race between Major's Tories and the Labour Party, led by Neil Kinnock. If anything, Labour was favored to win slightly more seats in Britain's 651-seat House of Commons and end the Conservative out of office after 13 tumultuous years. Instead, the late Tory surge emboldened the pollsters: the Conservatives won 336 seats, Labour took just 271, and the central Labour Democrats stumbled up just 26. With other major parties making up the rest, Major was left with

a working majority of 21 seats, down 32 from the last Parliament but a remarkable showing given the country's current economic gloom. Spurring inside 16 Downing, Major noted that incumbent governments around the world, such as those in Italy and France, had lost support in recent elections because of the recession. "We have bucked that trend in a most spectacular fashion," he said. And with quiet understatement, he added that the vote showed that "the country has elected me, in my own right, as prime minister."

But for Labour, the outcome was nothing short of disastrous. After three straight previous defeats, the party had picked most of its national policies in for electoral respectability. Kinnock himself had adopted extreme leftists out of the party and driven a sleek "designer socialist" style to appeal to middle-class voters. When he spoke outside his party's south London headquarters at 5.30 pm on the day after the vote, Kinnock's voice was hoarse and his hands shook. "I feel a sense of disappointment," he said with his wife, Gwyneth, standing stout-faced beside him. "The whole country deserves better than this."

Defeat. For the rest of the day, Kinnock remained closeted at his west London home behind drawn curtains. Outside, some Labour activists suggested that their leader had no choice but to resign. Said George Galloway, a left-wing Scottish Labour MP: "It is clear that Neil Kinnock has reached the summit of where he can take the British Labour Party." Others on the party's left blamed Labour's move to the right. "The party collectively lost its soul," said London MP Ken Livingstone. "And we were suddenly punished for that."

But Kinnock had his detractors, as well, including Glenda Jackson, the Oscar-winning actress who won a central London seat for Labour. Asked if Kinnock should quit, Jackson snapped back: "Absolutely not. We dragged the Labour Party into losing and screaming into the 20th century and he should stay." Kinnock himself said only that he will make a statement on his future plans this week, promising prompt speculation on his way down from his leader at the party's next convention in October.

But Labour's crisis goes beyond leadership. Candidates for a Labour break-through in last week's election seemed almost blind to Britain's recession shows no signs of easing and has hit hardest in the Tory heartland of southern England, the Conservatives were still bedeviled with Thatcher's controversial legacy, Labour ran a stonewall, professional campaign. With all signs pointing to a narrow victory up until the eve of the April 9 election, party organizers were devastated by the final results.

In the end, voters disenchanted with the government, or angered by the troubled economy, were still unwilling to trust Labour with power. Anthony King, a political scientist at Essex University, said that Britons still associate Labour with the strikes, chaos and economic decline of the 1960s and 1970s, when the party was dominated by powerful union leaders and left-wing extremists. "Labour has

CALLING IT WRONG
Throughout the 30-day campaign, pollsters consistently put Labour ahead of the Tories. The final vote showed the error of the forecasts.



Major outside 10 Downing Street: outmaneuvering the pollsters, the Tories snatch victory from the Labour Party

not been able to live that down and carry over its ability to live it down," said King. That leads to questions of whether Labour can ever win an election again. Analysts note that long-term social and economic trends in Britain may only increase the Tories' advantage: the economy will eventually climb out of recession, Labour's traditional working class base is declining and Britain's population is growing quadrate in suburban Conservative strongholds. Labour activists were saying last week that their chronic inability to win power may lead to the "Jeynerston" of British politics—a situation similar to that in Japan, where one large party consistently wins while a fragmented opposition hovers ineffectually on the fringes of power. Said a despairing Benedict O'Leary, a Labour supporter and a political scientist at the London School of Economics: "That has all sorts of consequences for dictators and corrupt one-party rule."

Such fears may well be exaggerated, but many analysts concluded last week that only a fundamental reorganization of British politics, perhaps leading to a single liberal opposition party or huge to the Conservatives. That appears a collaboration between Labour and the smaller Liberal Democrats or even an eventual merger of them into a new progressive party, without Labour's strong ties to the union movement. But many Labour leaders, especially those on the left, would strongly resist any such move.

The expert forecasts were wrong on many things, just Labour's performance. In the election, the separatist Scottish National Party appeared to be on a roll while the Conservatives were widely predicted to be in danger of losing all seven of their Scottish seats. In fact, the Conservative vote there rose slightly, to about 26 per cent, and the party won 21 of Scotland's 72 seats, up from nine. The 500-member lost votes to Labour and ended up with only three seats, two fewer than a half in the last Parliament. Still, many Scots were appalled that, once again, Scotland voted overwhelmingly Labour only to see a Tory government installed in London. That, they predicted, would only deepen Scottish alienation.

Reacts. Unhappy Scottish nationalists are just one of many political problems that will try Major's new government. Although the London Stock Exchange responded with initial enthusiasm to the Tory win, the country's economy is still in recession, and unemployment is up 4 percentage points over last year. Irish Republican Army terrorists continued their latest bombing campaign in England in the evening of the day after the election, while many voters in London's financial district were still at jobs celebrating the Tory victory and a surge in stock prices, a 100-ft. car bomb exploded in the area, killing three people and injuring more than 16. It blew a huge crater in the road and severely damaged office buildings

for blocks around. Security officers dispersed another car bomb shortly afterwards at a busy junction in north London.

For more of his political honeymoon was short, Major was well placed to stamp his own personality on the Tory party. Ever since he succeeded Thatcher in November, 1990, he has been handicapped by not having a personal mandate from the voters. During the election, he was widely described as a poor campaigner who seemed unable to articulate a clear vision to replace Thatcher's dynamic version of conservatism. Last Thursday's victory erased those doubts and strengthened his hand against the waning Thatcherites in his ranks. Instead, he purged some of them from his cabinet in a quick reshuffle on Saturday. Lord Jeffrey Archer, a leading Conservative supporter and close friend of Major's: "You will now see a prime minister who is not a caretaker but very much his own man."

So far, Major has shown an inclination to produce his own brand of "Majorism" to replace Thatcherism, which adversely impacted—and subverted—the nation. His remarkable victory last week was achieved in his own unassuming, plodding fashion. Now that his steady approach has been successful, Major may well conclude that the same formula is the best way to continue governing.

ANDREW PHILLIPS in London



WHEN THE LUSTRE FADES

THATCHER'S LEGACY HAUNTS A TOWN



Things are supposed to be different in Tulsehedge Wells. For decades, the handsome town set in the lush countryside of Kent County, southeast of London, has been a byword for prosperity, respectability and loyal Conservatism. That was especially true during the 1980s, when southern England boomed under Margaret Thatcher's "enterprise culture" and Tulsehedge Wells and its 5,000 people boomed right along with it. But now, the signs of the town's glory are an anachronistic storefront across the street from St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church. There, twice a day, volunteers serve sandwiches and soup to about 50 homeless people. Local residents acknowledge that it is something that they never expected to experience. "It's sad," Donna Taylor said last week as she helped out at the soup kitchen. "But this

area has been hit harder than ever before."

Across much of Britain, but especially in southern towns like Tulsehedge Wells where many people had grown accustomed to cross-country wealth, the recession has left a legacy of despair and disillusionment. It is a problem that the new Conservative government of Prime Minister John Major—and Tulsehedge MP Sir Patrick Mayhew, who was attorney general in the last government—will have to grapple with. Some of it is visible, like the soup kitchens that have sprung up to feed the homeless and the growing numbers of beggars on the streets. Much more is hidden. There is desperation among those people who have lost their jobs, and who now face the prospect of losing their homes as well because they cannot afford the huge mortgages they took on as house prices skyrocketed in the late 1980s. Helena Sheverson, manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Tulsehedge Wells, described how well-dressed, middle-class people sometimes break down when they ask for help in coping with their debts. "There are a lot of tears," she said, "but there is a lot of quiet despair, too."

Grexit: The result has been a sea change in the attitudes that helped reduce the Conservative majority in the House of Commons last week. Michael Thatcher, prime minister from 1979 to 1990, advocated a hard-edged philosophy extolling individual success, but such little sympathy for those who depended on government help to meet their needs. For much of the 1980s, comfortable residents of southern England scorned housing as socially unimportant. It was concentrated in the north and the inner cities, out of sight and largely out of mind. Tulsehedge Wells was no exception; then, in 1985, it was named on the popular soap opera *Brookside* as a place where anyone could find a job. Despite the shortage of affordable housing, white families migrated south in search of work. Now, local unemployment is at least 10 percent, below the national average of 9.4 percent but far above the rate just 18 months ago. The hardest hit sectors, such as banking and financial services, are exactly those that expanded at the fastest pace during the 1980s.



Tulsehedge Wells: Thatcher (opposite): unassumingly economic hardship led to a backlash against the Conservative Party

Disappointment has led to a backlash against the Thatcher years, which many voters said that they regretted in a town of 10,000 named after John Major, the 43-year-old cousin of a coalition shop called the Parliament, was a loyal Conservative supporter for most of his adult life, but he voted last week for the centrist Liberal Democrats. During the Thatcher years, he said, too many people were lured into borrowing too much money—and then they were crippled when interest rates soared to 15 percent in 1989. "We created a culture that said, Go out and spend, spend, spend on anything," said Perry. "We were on a high, and suddenly we're crashing to earth."

He pointed down the street, pointing out half a dozen empty stores with their windows smashed over. "We've never had shops vacant here before," he said. For 58-year-old Kevin Dugan, the crash had an especially painful impact. After working for British Gas for 40 years, he was laid off two days before last Christmas from his job as a manager of one of the company's retail outlets. British Gas was one of many state enterprises privatized by the Thatcher government in a massive self-reform that slashed the size of the public sector and put shares in the hands of

millions of Britons. But at the same time, the newly privatized companies set out to become more efficient. In the process, British Gas cut 25,000 jobs—including Dugan's.

He had been a part-time doorman at St. Augustine's Church in Tulsehedge Wells for several years. Now, he spends his full work hours there—except St. Augustine's set up the soup kitchen last November he explained, because more and more hungry people were turning up each day at the church hall for food. "We had always had a lot, but it was getting out of hand," said Dugan. "By last autumn, they were 40 or 50 a day camping on the doorstep."

Like Perry, Dugan disavowed the Thatcher era as a time when people lost sight of the common good. "We were being too greedy," he said. "The banks were enticing people to take on more and more debt. But now it's all gone sour, and people are realizing that you've got to look out for other people as well. That wasn't such a popular view a few years ago."

Dugan's attitude reflects wider public concern. Increasingly, Britons express fears that the country's social services have been allowed to deteriorate, sacrificed to the principle of

efficiency at almost any cost. As well, many Britons contend that the pace of the Thatcher "revolution" in reversing the United Kingdom's economic decline may be largely illusory. The Tories' formula for success was to license private enterprise from government and attract investors. But with recession biting deeper in Britain than elsewhere in Western Europe—the current slump is the longest since the 1930s—increasing numbers of Britons are questioning the need to improve education, transport and other services in the face of budgetary growth.

Malaise: During the election campaign, the Conservatives tried to defend themselves to voters by citing statistics which showed that social spending had increased significantly during their 13-year tenure. There opponents said other figures such as those showing that only a third of British students continue their education past age 18, a far lower proportion than in other Western European countries. At the same time, the Tories' law-and-order image was bolstered by statistics showing a 57 percent increase in the crime rate over the last decade. And the daily experience of commu-

ters picked out crowded subway trains and London's creaking subway system overwhelmed government assurances that more money is being spent on improving them. Anthony Thompson, author of *Anatomy of Britain*, a series of books analyzing British social trends beginning in 1985, considered as recent surveys of the Tory years. "London is now the shovelful for every non-city malaise: declining transport and services, poverty, homelessness and non planning blight."

The assessment may be hardly bleak, but it does reflect what has become a new conventional wisdom. After the high-morale rush of the Thatcher boom and bust, chastened Britons have returned to more traditional attitudes towards the need to share power between the private and public sectors. "You've got to strike the right balance," said Dugan. "That's using much too far in one direction, and the result is what you see outside." On the streets beyond the church doors, another group of scruffy young people were lining up for their free soup.

ANDREW PHILLIPS in Tulsehedge Wells





Singing protesters (top) oppose Wilson (left). Halls (center) Canada is seeking compensation for giving up FTA protection

BUSINESS

A TENSE STANDOFF

At a crowded press briefing, dressed in blue jeans and a denim shirt, unemployed garment worker Martin Pratte made a simple but impassioned plea before the three most powerful trade officials in North America. With her eyes fixed on Canadian Trade Minister Michael Wilson, the employed lady to "take care of the people who are still working—our jobs have already gone south." An uncomfortable-looking Wilson listened Pratte state that the impact on jobs was being taken into account as Canada, the United States and Mexico try to conclude a North American free trade agreement (NAFTA). But privately, Wilson's advisers suggested that if the three countries are to reach any such agreement, Canada will first have to surrender some of its protection under the 1989 Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

There was no official acknowledgment during these three days of SEVENTH NAFTA bargaining last week in Montreal of any impending Canadian concessions. Wilson, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche spent the time cloistered with aides inside Montreal's Queen

CANADIAN OFFICIALS PREPARE TO REOPEN THE FTA TO SECURE A NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE DEAL

Elizabeth Hotel. Their self-imposed isolation drew scores from opponents of the proposed trade deal, who also gathered in Montreal to protest against the talks. Saint Maude Bastien, chairwoman of the Ottawa-based anti-free trade group Action Canada Network. "This whole seventh-genius is outrageous. Canadians are going to lose their jobs and they are supposed to just accept that when it's dumped on them." In fact, despite a colossal public mood, the three trade ministers left Montreal with little

indication that they are approaching a final accord. But Canadian advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity made it clear that Wilson could drop some long-standing objections to reopening the FTA in order to achieve the wider agreement.

Wilson and his counterparts isolated themselves on the top floor of the 21-storey hotel where they met for breakfast for up to 14 hours a day around a triangular table. It was their fifth meeting since June, and, as the talks continued, Serra and Wilson appeared at the table casually dressed in sweaters. Hills remained formal in tailored suits. When the talks adjourned, Wilson described them as "casual but constructive." And Hills declared that she was confident that the three negotiators "could conclude our negotiations, initial and sign an agreement before November."

But while the three delegation leaders remained sequestered, their aides occasionally opened informal discussions in the hotel's well-appointed coffee shop. And despite the official silence surrounding the negotiations, it became increasingly clear last week that Hills's goal of concluding an agreement before the November

presidential election could entail concessions to the existing Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the 17-year-old Auto Pact.

Indeed, sources close to the talks said that the American representative had completed the three-way negotiation by late September on opening parts of the 1989 FTA. In particular, Hills is pressing Canada to agree to raise the minimum made-in-North-America content required for duty-free treatment of cars, clothing and computers. The demanded changes could alter the outlook for Canada's \$29-billion auto industry, its \$5.9-billion garment trade and its \$3.3-billion business in computers.

Many critics of the proposed continental pact have expressed concern that North Americans have trade-map out additional strains on a Canadian economy already reeling from its adjustment to the FTA. In addition to Berlin and Pratte, a group of elderly demonstrators delivered their canisters to Wilson in suit last week.

As well, Canadian Auto Workers union president Robert White threatened his long-standing opposition to the conclusion of NAFTA. White accused Wilson of "taking a little bit of progress for Canada and making it worse" by preparing to expand the FTA to include Mexico. Partisans owned by Japanese automakers in Ontario and Quebec are already being challenged by U.S. officials who claim that the Canadian-built cars have less than 50 per cent North American content. It Hills demands even greater North American content, White claimed last week, "there will be no new auto investment in Canada."

And even though Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has declared that the FTA is not open for revision, there were clear signs last week that Wilson is preparing to give ground. One Canadian industry adviser in Ottawa told Mexicanists that aides had tabled their own counter-demands for complex arrangements to respon-

sitate Canadian industries hurt by NAFTA concessions.

Wilson's officials have acknowledged from the start of the talks that they are less interested in increasing Canada's modest \$2-billion two-way trade with Mexico than they are in defending the country's favored status in the United States under the FTA. Indeed, Canadian exports to Mexico last year fell to \$440 million, down \$400 million in 1990.

At the same time, the depressed economy has heightened concern among Canadian workers that Mexico's much lower wages will cause businesses to relocate there from Canada. It is in them that some industry spokesmen share Eric Berry, president of the Ottawa-based Canadian Textile Institute, noted last week. "Any large enterprise industry in Canada, like the apparel business, has legitimate concerns about free trade with Mexico."

And in fact, Mexico is supplying much of the competition for the NAFTA talks. The large conglomerate of Mexican business representatives and journalists packing the halls of the Montreal hotel last week focused on the importance of the issue for that country. North American free trade is key to the economic reform program that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has promised to his 85 million countrymen since 1985. His goal to attract the foreign investment required to modernize and expand the country's industry and repay Mexico's \$113-billion foreign debt.

The rapid negotiations from each country plan to meet a goal within weeks to follow up on last week's talks, with the goal of moving closer to an agreement. Given what is at stake in all three countries, they can expect continued close scrutiny.

DEBORAH McMURDY in Montreal

THE GLOOM INDEX

Several monthly indicators pointed to a pessimistic outlook for the economy. According to Statistics Canada, unemployment reached 11.1 per cent in March, its highest level in seven years. The agency also said that its index of help-wanted ads across the country fell in March to 62, from 65 in February (the index is based on a benchmark of 100, established in 1983). Meanwhile, the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and that headquarters note that February to 8,809, from 9,564 the month before.

ANALYSTS BELLISH ON CANADA

In mid-week rally on the Toronto Stock Exchange under scored prediction by a New York City-based company that Canadian firms would outperform those of the other G-7 nations of seven major industrial countries in 1991. The 1991 research service forecast a 58-per-cent growth in earnings by Canadian companies this year—more than twice the G-7 average of 23 per cent.

A GM UPSHOTS

Director of General Motors Corp. sharply reduced the industry's top company chairman Robert Stempel and demoted his handpicked chief lieutenant, Lloyd Reuss. Stempel retained his title, but lost his position as chairman of the board's powerful executive committee, which oversees GM's activities between meetings of the full board of directors. Reuss lost his job as GM's president to John Smiale, formerly head of the company's international operations. Reuss became non-president in charge of new vehicles. (He lost \$4 million on his worldwide operations last year.)

THE REICHMANN WATCH

The financial problems of the Toronto-based Reichmann family members continued to mount, forcing down the share price of the company's distressed bonds that have outstanding loans to their companies. The Reichmanns' holding company, Olympia & York Development Ltd. (OYD), failed to pay \$7.1 million in interest that came due on a \$50-million Euro-bond debt issue. The company did, however, manage to pay \$6.3 million in interest on a second Euro-bond issue worth \$1 billion. Meanwhile, reports of clashes between the Reichmanns and Thomas Johnson, the recently appointed president of OYD, contributed to uneasiness about the restructuring of the firm's estimated \$23-billion debt. Johnson's involvement was scheduled to allow negotiations on that restructuring early this week.

Our motto.

IBM MEANS SERVICE

For every business, large or small,
there is an International Business Machines
product or service to help meet the

After all these years, we've made one small change.

Before we were known for computers, broad strategic planning, to systems integration, Nobel prizes, or a blue logo, IBM stood for a network management and user training service. And we still do.

But today the need for service is different and network availability services, not only information technology is now so essential (and fixing problems, not only so complex), many companies feel it has taken before they occur. If you're cutting costs, we can handle many of them for you for less than you can do them in-house, saving you headaches, too.

So we've refocused, too. But it's not just what you save, it's what you get. IBM service is now a vast array of service. And that's why IBM services exist—to keep delivered by experts. Our help can range from our systems (and the people who use them) at

their best all the time. Technology may be your most critical investment and we'll help you make the most of it.

Companies like BC Gas Inc., Canadian Tire Corporation, Limited and Air Canada are turning to us for tailored solutions. We lend our strengths, so they can stick to theirs.

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The pay perks of the rich

Ontario may change disclosure rules for corporate paycheques

The gold bar pictured in the opening pages of *American Banker* Resources Corp.'s most recent annual report is photographed with living attention to detail. Readers can even follow the craters left by bubbles that rose to the top of the bars as the molten metal cooled. The glittering pile of gold in an open container is "Toronto-based

American Banker, it is the largest gold-mining company in North America. And it is fitting for another reason. The compensation that Banker paid last year to its chairman and founder, Peter Mack, almost makes the stack of gold look like pocket change. Mack's salary for 1991 was healthy enough: it amounted to \$293,000. But that was only part of his income. In addition to almost \$1 million in salary, Banker's chairman collected more than \$30 million by selling stock acquired as a result of options that he had received from the company five years earlier. Mack's total earnings for the year: \$32,618,154.

Mack's stock-option pay package was the largest ever made public for a Canadian executive. It was disclosed at a time when the money landed on senior corporate managers is a subject of increasingly heated debate. In the United States, the matter has even come up during primary campaigning for the presidency, with some candidates blaming the U.S. economy's weakness partly on overpaid executives. Indeed, the top-paid Americans include even Mack. Anthony O'Reilly, chairman of Pittsburgh's H.J. Heinz Co., for one, earned six times what the

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MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR MEN



Peter Mack,
American Banker
Resources Corp.

Toronto

1990 pay:	\$791,521*
1991 pay:	\$32,618,154*
% change:	4,121
1990 company profit:	\$68.7 million
1991 company profit:	\$105.9 million
% change:	54

*Includes earnings as chairman of Hiramson Corp., Toronto, a trading company that owns 20 per cent of American Banker.



Anthony O'Reilly,
H.J. Heinz Co.

Pittsburgh

1990 pay:	\$3,755,477*
1991 pay:	\$85,200,000*
% change:	2,268
1990 company profit:	\$580.1 million
1991 company profit:	\$653.2 million
% change:	12

*Includes earnings as chairman of Hiramson Corp., Toronto, a trading company that owns 20 per cent of American Banker.



Raymond Cyr,
BCE Inc.

Montreal

1990 pay:	\$1,331,100
1991 pay:	Not disclosed
1990 company profit:	\$1.1 billion
1991 company profit:	\$1.3 billion
% change:	18

*Includes earnings as chairman of Hiramson Corp., Toronto, a trading company that owns 20 per cent of American Banker.

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John Fraser—the keeper of the flame

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

French Canada's demands and aboriginal aspirations have been driving the national agenda for so many years that hardly anyone across concerned with the thoughts and premises of English-Canadians.

These English-Canadian values are as important, although relatively silent, element in the current dialogue. They are best reflected in the dominant ethic of the South, whose persistence and loyalty made them English Canada's founding fathers and mothers. Their careful way of doing things, their rigid sense of duty and their willingness to accommodate themselves to a harsh geography and impossible climate found resonance with this country's character. They were tough—using their paired lips as weapons of righteousness—but they also knew how to negotiate and when to accept compromise not only as a safe course between extremes, but as a secular standard on how to live one's life.

For generations, as a result, Canada's operational code adopted of Quebec was based on mores of thought and behavior that were imported from the distinctive gardens and disciplined dunes of the Scottish Highlands. The world of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, the idea that industry and hard work meant more than emendation or country, the need to be close with one's money and emotions—these were the Highland ideals that pervaded English-Canadian thinking.

Such a heritage approach sounds self-defeating now, hardly in tune with the conventional politics of the 1980s. But for at least one man who resides in the centre of Canada's political process—the Hon. John Fraser, Speaker of the House of Commons—nothing has changed.

"My ancestors on my father's side were among the Scots at Fortinaria who came with John Wolfe to Quebec in 1733," he recalls during an Ottawa interview recently, as if it had all happened the day before yesterday. "As a matter of fact, Wolfe was at the Battle of

'I can't contemplate the breakup of my country any more than I would contemplate the destruction of my family'

Culloden, and so the women were carrying off the dead, the Duke of Cumberland, the general in charge of the victorious British forces, said one of the generally wounded soldiers, "What is your name?" The dying man replied, "Fraser of love (love)!" And when the general asked, "And to whom do you belong?" the man replied, "To the prince!"—referring to Prince Charles, whose troops had just been routed.

"The British general turned to Wolfe, then his adjutant, and ordered, 'Shoot that man'! But Wolfe rose up his thumbs and in front of his comrades in arms declared: 'You may have my ammunition, sir, but I will not shoot that man!'"

When Wolfe returned to his expatriate force for the mission of Quebec, some 1,360 Frasers enlisted on the spot.

Largely like that one opens a way of life, which is what happened to Fraser and thousands of Scottish loyalists like him. Responsibility to one's country—Scotland or Canada—is enshrined in the very marrow of their being.

Now, Fraser anchors back into Canadian history to patently his support of Quebec as a distinct society. "To compromise the distinct character of Quebec," he says, "is to acknowledge sociological and political reality. In 1774,

the British Parliament granted Quebec the right to preserve its language, religion, civil rights and legal system—in short, a form of distinct society within Canada, which insured, looking with its own policies in all the other colonies. These rights were confirmed again in the 1867 British North America Act, the legal foundation on which Confederation has been built for the last 125 years.

"The idea of country may not be the same, but their ideal of duty and obligation is identical. And that's also true of the people in my home riding of Vancouver South, where there are 25,000 people of Chinese origin and at least 10,000 Sikhs. My impression is that if you can get away from their self-appointed spokesmen, the majority of newcomers to Canada are incredibly appreciative of what this country is all about. That doesn't mean that they prefer a nation where the realities of their own background have to be abandoned, but they do want to become Canadian, and their biggest problem is how badly we teach our history."

Fraser strongly believes that English-Canadian's ignorance of their own history could result in what the majority of them want to avoid—the death of their country. "We've got to start understanding what we've done together," he says, "and reconstruct what brought it together in the first place. It was the same knowledge that we did care for one another, and that it was better to be together than apart."

Turning up to his subject, he goes on: "Look, I remember my father saying to me many times over, 'You show me a person who is proud of who they are and where they come from, and I'll show you a person you can trust.' That's not just Highland mythology. I've and those words in front of a huge Sikh audience and got a standing ovation, because they knew what I was talking about. And that's why I have so much faith that if most Canadians start being openly positive in their feelings about this country, we can save it. All we have to do there is translate our good intentions into constitutional form."

Peace and order of his exhibit a determination, unusual for most Canadians, that everything is negotiable except the continued existence of the country itself. "I can't contemplate the breaking up of my country any more than I would contemplate the destruction of my family," he declares. "We're a different people, but even it, sometimes you just have to give a response to why we must keep the country together."

What most concerns Fraser is that so many English-Canadians, including many of his friends, still believe that Quebec is bluffing. "We've got to make up our minds about things early now," Fraser insists. "I don't think you can spread yourself out on a psychometric couch forever, because it does things to your spirit. We've also got a very serious economic situation which is not helped by endless constitutional uncertainty. I don't intend to betray my ancestors by sitting back and saying nothing."

Like those long-ago comers on the killing fields of Culloden, his loyalty is still to the process.



THE SEDUCTION OF MINIVANS VERSUS THE LOGIC OF A MINITANK.



Two station wagons offer capabilities only as an option.

Volvo da, however, offer as standard equipment reinforced steel passenger cages, emergency-exit/locking mechanisms, driver's side air bags and available anti-lock brakes.

You can't fit an entire soccer team in a Volvo wagon.

But for the few people and all the stuff they want to bring along, there's the security of knowing this is a vehicle designed with safety in mind from the very start.

Not an add-on or an afterthought. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety studies the fatality rates in accidents.

for most cars sold in the U.S. Since they began publishing reports, Volvo have been at or near the top in each of their model categories.

Which may be a good reason for Jill Wade, mother of two, for owning a Volvo. Wade is a member of a car pool where she says four out of five families drive Volvos.

Cecily Heavenridge in another person with a compelling argument for driving a Volvo. Two years ago, her husband Keith was in a serious accident in a Volvo and walked away. Since then, they've bought a new Volvo sedan and a wagon, which Cecily affectionately calls, "the tank."

Which is something we take as a compliment.

Drive safely

VOLVO

EXTRAORDINARY
ACCOUNTS RAISE
QUESTIONS ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENS
AFTER DEATH

A woman remembers the rules and peace that she felt as she looked down at her own body in a hospital bed

A Hawaiian hospital orderly is angry when doctors reassure him after cardiac arrest. He says that he remembers having a beautiful and comforting experience and asks not to be reassured of his latest steps again.

An eight-year-old Seattle girl comes out of a diabetic coma and says that people dressed in white gave her the choice to choose her fairytale princess.

Psychiatrist Carl Jung had one American disciple: Thomas had one. Sven Torst, Sweden's dog had one. Eight million Americans, according to a 1991 Gallup poll, have had one. Researchers estimate that the phenomenon is widespread: one in three people who recover from cardiac arrest to death or becoming clinically dead report having had a so-called near-death experience. Usually, according to Kenneth Ring, a psychology professor and a leading researcher in the area at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, a near-death experience involves a feeling of peace and well-being, a sense of separation from the physical body, a journey into a dark void and tunnel-like area, a panoramic view of one's life as if one were watching a movie, and sometimes with dead relatives and a return to the physical body. "Almost always, these people are extremely grateful that it happened," says Ring, who has conducted three major studies of the near-death phenomenon. "Many say it's their single greatest experience."

For most people, fear of the unknown, and especially of dying and death, is a fundamental source of anxiety. Few people go through their lives without wondering of worrying about—what happens after the body dies. But theories about what happens after death remain in the realm of speculation. Increasingly,

reports of near-death experiences are raising new questions about whether death is really the end of life. Since 1975, when American psychiatrist Dr. Raymond Moody first coined the term "near-death experience," as his book *Life After Life*, a growing number of researchers in universities and hospitals have directed themselves to finding the answers—and their work is gradually looking its way into the medical mainstream.

To skeptics, the near-death experiences are the brain's dramatic response to distress. To claim that near-death experiences are evidence of some form of life after death is, say critics of the theory, magical thinking. Few researchers are prepared yet to suggest that near-death experiences provide a glimpse of an existence beyond death. Still, they maintain that the evidence they are gathering will help to explore unexplored parts of the consciousness, rel-

igion—and possibly the universe. "This is a tremendously fertile area," said Dr. Malvin Marmor, a pediatrician and Seattle who studies children's near-death experiences. "I think access will be probing the frontiers of consciousness and whether or not there is a God."

DYNAMIC: Not everyone who comes close to death actually lives a near-death experience. From the point of view of researchers who believe in the phenomenon, many of those

people may simply repress the experience. Those researchers cite studies showing that people who are able to remember their dreams are more likely to recall a near-death experience. To skeptics, that same research suggests that such experiences are just another form of dream. They maintain that because near-death experiences often contain the cultural and personal motifs of those who have them, the phenomenon is merely a jumble of memories

being interpreted by a distraught mind. Still, researchers provide compelling evidence of people from widely varying backgrounds around the world claiming to have had remarkably similar experiences during a brush with death. Some experts say that accounts of near-death experiences are as old as recorded history. They claim that these accounts are not the product of religious teaching, but the foundation of the concept of heaven and the afterlife. "People will say that belief in life after death is the product of magical thinking," said Toronto journalist and broadcaster Tom Harper, a former Anglican minister and author of the 1991 book *Life After Death*. "I think it's the product of meditation on what people have actually experienced" (page 40).

*Barbara Harris was 22 years old in 1975 when she underwent back surgery. A few days after surgery, Harris began moving noticeably and her blood pressure started to drop. "I remember screaming, 'Leave me alone, I want to die,'" she recalls. "And I passed out." In the middle of the night, she says, she awoke in the hallway of the hospital. As she entered her room, she realized that she was looking down on her own body in a bed. "I felt calm and peaceful," said Harris. The next thing she saw was total darkness and then she felt her grandmother, who had been dead for 14 years, embrace her—"I could feel what she was feeling," Harris says that she was then aware of a breeze and a low humming noise that was "bubbling" her. Her next memory is of waking up in the hospital bed. Harris, who lives in Calverton, Md., and wrote the 1986 book *Full Circle: The Near-Death Experience and Beyond*, says that her passage made her realize that death was nothing to be feared. "I don't want to die before my time, but I really do feel forced to going back," she said. "It feels like home."*

Whether they are a glimpse of the next life or truths that the mind is playing during a life-threatening situation, near-death experiences have a profound and permanent effect on the lives of those who have them (pages 38 and 39). Dr. Bruce Greyson, director of outpatient psychiatry at the University of Connecticut medical school in Farmington, pointed to the results of his new study involving three groups of people: those who have never come close to death; those who have, but who did not have a near-death experience; and those who had the experience. The results indicated that the near-death experience transformed the lives of those who had them. Both groups who had come close to death valued life more than those who had not. But the people who had had near-death experiences, Greyson said, became, among other things, much more adventurous and started to take more risks. Those who had come close to death but had no memory of it became more cautious and conservative. And near-deathers are ready to go anytime," said Greyson. "They tend not to be afraid of death. Paradoxically, the others tend to be afraid of life."

But the critics say that the near-death experi-

Between Life And Death



science is not proof of life after death. Similar out-of-body sensations or spiritual journeys have been reported during meditation. "The experiences are sufficiently like other states," said Barry Revenson, a psychology professor at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., "in its intent to assume that they are things the brain is capable of generating under certain circumstances." Revenson added, "And I think it's probably a bad idea to mix science and religion."

Changes: But to others, the fact that the experiences may occur during anesthesia raises new issues. "Even in this world, the out-of-body experience suggests at least the possibility of consciousness continuing in the absence of the usual consciousness to the body," said Donald Evans, a philosophy professor at the University of Toronto who specializes in religion and epistemology. According to Evans, it is "puzzling" that people at the point of little or no brain activity can have "such a rich experience, unlike the consciousness in its more intact, independent of brain changes."

Other researchers say that, if it is significant that near-death experiences can bring about more personal changes than years of psychotherapy do, in his new book, *The Omega Project*, which will be published next month, King reports on his study at the aftereffects of near-death experiences. Among them, he says, are widespread value changes as people become more spiritually oriented, altruistic and compassionate. King also found that people who had near-death passages reported that their neurological systems were functioning differently afterward. Many said that they have been flooded by information from another dimension that they can't absorb. Others said that they have become more sensitive, even psychic, but that the experiences, for all their richness, may also be a disruptive force on people's personal lives. "Very often, people come back with a very different concept of what love is," said Grayson. "They often feel that they love everybody. And that's real hard for spouses to accept sometimes."

Other studies report very different results—that a near-death experience causes physiological changes. Some people, Grayson says, have shown long-term decreased blood pressure and pulse rates after having a near-death experience. In addition, there are those who report a new sensitivity for certain smells, sounds or bright lights. Grayson says that some people have reported a sensitivity to electromagnetic fields—"computers go on the first when they walk into a room." He added, "It's hard to know if you're dealing with a coincidence or a phenomenon."

In a Seattle hospital emergency room, right-ventricle Michelle helped into a dialysis room and remained in it for several days. A few weeks after her recovery, she told researchers



More what she remembered. "All of a sudden, I was floating above my body looking down at myself. There were two doctors pulling me on one of those stretchers into a room. Both were women doctors. I felt funny. I was not and I just knew when my name brought me in but when I saw floating I didn't feel bad. I felt good." During the second part of her experience, she told Moore she saw someone with people dressed in a white. "In front of me were two doctors, a red one and green one. The people in white kept telling me to push the red button, but I knew I should push the green one because the red button would mean I wouldn't come back. I pushed the green one instead and woke up from the coma. I don't know why I knew the red button was bad but I am forever in their care."

Unlike adults' reports, children's near-death experiences are rarely laden with cultural references and interpretations. In one study, Moore, who wrote the 1990 book *Children to the Light* about children's experiences, studied 28 children who had fully recovered from a "viable arrest." Of those, he said, 18, including Michelle, reported near-death sensations. While he acknowledged that he had only a small group to study, Moore still was willing to assert that "the experience is integral to the process of dying." He says that children frequently consider the near-death experience to be a "wonder dream." A fairly standard response, he added, is, "Wow. It was really weird. I thought I was floating. I saw a light and there were a lot of good things in the light." Said Moore, "They

have the pure essence of the experience. It's simple, beautiful and told in a very straightforward way."

But the aftereffects are similar to those for adults. Moore talked to people over 50 who had near-death experiences as children and said that they were profoundly changed by them. Aside from diminished death anxiety, he said, they loved their lives more deeply, exercised more, gave more money to charity and took better care of themselves than those who had not had a near-death experience. One of Moore's young patients told him, "Life is so long and the light is so far."

Michelle has all near-death passages, however, as reassurance. A few people report being frightened by the experience. According to Nancy Brown Bush, president of the 11-year-old Hartford, Conn.-based International Association for Near-Death Studies, who has spent the past five years collecting anecdotal information, unpleasant near-death experiences tend to fall into three categories. The first, she says, involves a positive experience except that the person has interpreted it in a different way and has often been terrified by the sense of losing control. Said Brown Bush, "A person who approaches the light and is so fearful may react as a reflection of the fires at the gates of hell, instead of seeing it as a radiant light."

Brown Bush adds that a second group of people experience "a great cosmic nothingness." Sensations of being caught in a void, with an accompanying sense of abandonment, she adds, frequently lead to long-term despair. Those in the third, and smallest, group claim

that they saw a vision of hell. In some of those accounts, according to Brown Bush, people claim that they have had to observe others being tortured or tormented.

With nurse Michelle Cooper on duty at Christus Hospital in Houston in 1977, an elderly suffered cardiac arrest. When doctors resuscitated him, he was angry. He told Cooper that he had had an experience of floating, first through the ceiling and then over a brightly lit field of clover. There were beautiful smells and music, and a brother who had died was welcoming him. All of a sudden, he felt a terrible pain and found himself in the emergency room. After his experience, he called his lawyer, arranged his finances and requested that he not be resuscitated the next time. Cooper was with him again when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Said Cooper, "I'm glad *ON* because you know he was really ready to pass on and what was waiting for him was something wonderful."

It is the emphasis on the spiritual aspects of the experience that concerns many critics. Surveys do not dispute that near-death experiences occur, but they often find those who have them profoundly. But they report claims that they reflect a glimpse of life after death. James Alcock, a psychology professor at Toronto's York University and, he says, "the only skeptic on the board" of the Association for Near-Death Studies journal, says that the phenomenon can be explained in scientific terms. Even when a person is unconscious or under anesthesia, says Alcock, there is some degree of consciousness. "What is coming in there is a very distorted perception of reality," said Alcock. "There may be some things from the mind mixed with other material from memory." He added, "It doesn't take much exposure to religion to believe it's real."

Like Alcock and other skeptics, Ronald Siegel, an associate research professor at the University of California at Los Angeles who has studied near-death experiences, contends that they are physiological, rather than spiritual, in origin. In his book *Five in the Brain: Chemical Traces of Hallucinogenics*, which was published last month, Siegel argues that hallucinations can be triggered by free anesthesia or isolation of the brain. He says that, in an experiment done to reach the brain roots to the chest to the body in such a way that fantasies and memories of childhood flood the consciousness. That response is not unlike the effects of certain "memory drugs," like benzodiazepine, Siegel writes, which "cause cerebral excitation that enables thoughts and memories to become transformed into sensory impressions." He added, "Just as physiological shock helps keep the body together, the near-death experience keeps potentially disorganizing reaction in check. It's an adaptive way for us to survive a threatening situation."

Indeed, critics admit to concede that the near-death experience is like a dream or nightmare—and should be treated that way. "We use very vivid dreams or very vivid nightmares, and what we do with children is

wake them up and say, 'It's just a fantasy,'" said Alcock. "But we totally ignore the fact that these kinds of experiences...to people who have them, the obvious explanation is that they're real." Richard Blacher, a psychiatry professor and lecturer in surgery at Boston's Tufts University, also dismisses the belief that near-death experiences occur outside the body—and he claims that people who report them were never really dead. "People talk as though people died and came back to life," said Blacher. "Death is a end point—a state, not a process. You can also say that a bullet misses your head by so much, it's a near-death experience."

Drugs: Other researchers, including Rev. Albert Morawski, chaplain at the Dominion Monastery of contemplative Nuns in Lubbock, Texas, 300 miles northeast of Houston, conclude that the experiences are probably the



result of metabolic changes, such as a temporary oxygen deprivation or a sudden release of hormones in the body. Morawski also notes the similarity between near-death experiences and the effects of some hallucinogenic drugs. "It's much less likely to mean anything of religious significance if you can induce it with a chemical alteration of the brain," he said. At times, Morawski added, the experience may represent an individual's encounter with his own spirituality. "This may be the means for them to wake up to themselves," added Morawski. "But the church would object to it being seen as an encounter with Christ or God in a direct sense."

Sell, some researchers say that such explanations do not fully account for what happens during a near-death experience. "That doesn't mean there isn't a physiological explanation," and Grayson, "just that we haven't found one."

What explains many accounts is the wide variety of circumstances in which the experiences occur, the personal changes or journeys—and the failure of any theory to fit all the cases. Said Evans Bush, "There is no human experience of any description that can't simply be reduced to a biological process, but that in no way affects the pasting those experiences have for us—whether it's falling in love, or grieving, or having a baby."

Despite the growing body of research on near-death experiences, many issues remain unresolved. Many say that the next step should be to take a large group of people at risk of heart attacks and throughout the year, a number of them will eventually suffer cardiac arrest, and some will have near-death experiences. "There are a number of questions to be answered," said Moore. "Does this experience happen during the process of dying? Or is it a

retrospective fabrication after they've entered consciousness? Is the physical transformation something real?" Whether it is a scientific curiosity, a desire to believe that life can go on some form after death or a desire to reassure that dying can be a pleasant process, the growing interest in near-death experiences is clear evidence of an appetite for more information. "This whole subject is just full of incredible hope for some people and equidistant hope for others," said Evans Bush. "People are so hungry to know what they can believe about death, what they can believe about dying." The growing body of knowledge about what happens at death's door may shed new light on the nature of human consciousness—and, perhaps eventually, on the mysterious realm that may lie beyond death.

Michelle Cooper: "You knew he was ready to pass on and what was waiting for him was wonderful!"



Michelle Cooper: "You knew he was ready to pass on and what was waiting for him was wonderful!"

Michelle Cooper: "You knew he was ready to pass on and what was waiting for him was wonderful!"

GLIMPSES OF AN AFTERLIFE?

A LIGHT TRIGGERS EERIE MEMORIES

DREAMS? **HALLUCINATIONS?** Keys to understanding the conscious state? Or real glimpses of an afterlife? The reports disappear on the phenomenon known as near-death experiences. But the people who have them tell remarkably similar stories of ethereal encounters that have changed the way they live. *Robert Kuhn, for one, endured a brief medical arrest during heart surgery on Nov. 7, 1978. Now 59 and retired, now lives in Trent River, Ont., east of Pittsburgh, from a career in broadcasting. Kuhn told *Entertainment Weekly* "Underneath that hospital light triggered memories of a familiar adventure when his heart was stopped. His report*

I woke up in the recovery room saying out loud, 'I must remember, I must remember.' But I couldn't remember what it was I was supposed to remember. I was disoriented. It didn't make any sense to me, and at the same time I felt better than I'd felt for a long, long time. I was, of course, rather ill, but that didn't enter the firm feeling good, happy, positive. They wheeled me down a corridor and from the ceiling light it triggered a memory. All of a sudden, I started to remember that experience and it just absolutely blew my away.

I was conscious of a tunnel with an atmosphere

light at the other end I was going towards it at a really blinding speed. The walls of the tunnel were blurry at first, but then I noticed they were what appeared to be plants or stars. There was a sound, which was the sound of all the orchestra in the world playing with an intensity that was awesome. I became frightened but, almost immediately, a kind of peace reached out telepathically—nothing I could see or feel, but like a voice in my head—that said, 'Take it easy, everything's OK.' It had an immediate calming effect on me.

Then, I got up to the light and I went through it to an area of pitch blackness. I was really terrified, but that only lasted an instant. Suddenly, I became aware that I was sitting on a rock in the middle of a lake in the most beautiful location I have ever seen. Surely, this light—golden and green, glorious, warm colors—formed itself into a landscape with lots of trees and big bookshelves. While I was sitting there, the entity who had reached out to me before said, 'That's really something, isn't it?' I said, 'Yeah. Where is it?' It said, 'I don't know. No, they just don't send you there for a while.' Next, I found myself on a street. It was a magnificent boulevard with buildings made of some sort of opalescent material and it was

galaxy. It was sort of a multicolored galaxy containing art and music and sculpture. Each of these displays was in a form both traditional and completely out of my understanding. There were sculptures you might find in Italy and others you might find in Vienna.

Then we went to a library, with stacks going up to the ceiling and going on and on. My guide said, 'Now listen, when you go back'—and I thought, back? I'm going to have to leave? It's the only time I've been happy in my life—you're going to have to make something to get into this material.' I asked him if I had to go, and he said, 'You have work you need to do and they need you back here.' I said, 'You've got all the guilt over the time wasted.' He said, 'Take that' and I was so overwhelmed with guilt I thought I would die. And he waved his hand and all the guilt was replaced by a feeling of calm. He said, 'You can do this yourself.'

The last place we went was to a room, with a wonderful computer that had something to do with dreams. There were several people operating the thing and one of them was Albert Einstein. He said, 'Would you like to run that?' and I was so overwhelmed by the fact that he would take time to talk to me that I said, 'Sure, but I don't know how to.' He said, 'You just have to do as well as you can. Go ahead, try.' And so I did. And suddenly I had a pattern over the keys and I knew that I was doing it and I was so overwhelmed by the fact that he had helped someone so unimportant. That's the entity said, 'You're going to have to go back.'

Here I was, this logical fellow, and the greatest experience of my life had occurred when I was unconscious. I thought I was insane. I told several people and none of them, with the exception of my wife, Elizabeth, believed me. How true the axiom that I had changed. Nothing seemed to be as important as it had before.

I'm not afraid of dying. I may be afraid of the way of dying, but I'm not afraid of death. It is, without a doubt, the most wonderful experience I've ever experienced. That's the way of dying. The process of dying, having gone through the actual pain to the body, is a release. This is the hell ☐

Belts: There was a band of angels singing'

absolutely ecstatic. There was a street sweeper working there. I said, 'This is a magnificent street.' And he said, 'I like to forget about the hell and I enjoy my work.' Then we went on to another place. There was a band of angels singing. I was a total skeptic. I had no belief in angels or any kind of heavenly being. They were female angels singing the most lovely music. I met one of the ladies and I was very attracted to her. But I realized my attraction was a physical one and that was the wrong thing to do.

Then, we went to an art gallery. It was sort of a multicolored galaxy containing art and music and sculpture. Each of these displays was in a form both traditional and completely out of my understanding. There were sculptures you might find in Italy and others you might find in Vienna.

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THE MUSIC IN THE LIGHT

A BRUSH WITH DEATH REMOVES THE FEAR OF DYING

Gilbert Beldard says that doctors at Sacred Heart Hospital in Carlsville, Md., just north of Montreal, did not expect him to live. Beldard is a severe stroke victim diagnosed for nearly five months. The 10-year-old, five-foot, eight-inch Beldard weighed just 75 lb. on Nov. 17, 1973, when he developed a 105° fever and began to vomit. A priest administered last rites, and Beldard's parents were at his bedside. But he recovered, and in the months that followed he had vivid recollections of his glimpse of what he calls an afterlife. Now 35 and living in Montreal, Beldard told *Playboy* Chief Researcher Sharon Doyle.

Doyle says that the experience has affected his life profoundly, by leading him to his present career as a producer of *Play*. After while, this account of his brush with death.

A day long, I went in and out of a coma. Around 2 a.m., the doctors came and put me on my back to examine me. They saw a round light in the ceiling. I felt as if I were looking at the moon. Suddenly, I couldn't see my walls. Then I saw myself from the ceiling. I was one-foot higher than my body and I was looking down at the people around me. It was very strange. I had never experienced anything like it. I could see myself, the people around me, the doctors, the nurse, even my wife, but I felt no emotion. It was just like watching television.

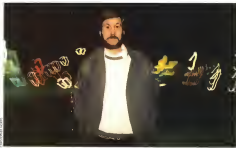
In the black of my eye, my vision expanded and I went onto a place like a casino where there were 12 people standing in a half-circle. They were all pure white lights and they had no faces. Beyond them was a tunnel. I went in. I somehow knew these people although they weren't family or people I could recognize. It was as if they were waiting for me. I asked them what was happening, and they told me, 'You are not going to die. You are going back to Earth. You have something to do.' I asked them what it was, and in seven or eight seconds it was as if I knew the answer. They said I would know what I had to do when the time came. At that moment, I could sense the future and I realized I had the choice to do what I wanted to do. I felt pure peace. What I remem-

ber most in the music I heard when I was out of my body. It was fascinating.

It was hard to tell how long the experience lasted. It could have been five seconds or half an hour. When I came back into my body, it felt very small. But it was OK. I felt very calm, very warm. When I came to, around 5 a.m., I felt ready for a party. It was as if nothing had happened to me. I didn't remember the experience at that time. But a month after the stroke, I had another one. During the night, I had a sensation of falling into a tunnel. Going

back group with some friends, but after I discovered that almost I turned to electronic music. Later, in 1985, I met Beldard at a New Age music conference. There I found out that, as a musician, he had had a near-death experience. He said that when he wrote music, he tried to recreate the music he heard when he was in the light.

I kept the experience to myself for a long time because I didn't know how to talk and I didn't want to be considered a freak. I am not afraid to talk about it now, because people have



Beldard: 'If people don't believe me, that's OK. I'm not a salesman for the experience.'

er, I have five more to do, but just before arriving at the end of the tunnel, I woke up. It was not a dream. It was real. And it was then that I remembered the entire experience.

After I left the hospital I felt secure, as if I was in a large protective bubble. I knew I could travel the street without feeling and not be hurt. During my convalescence, I began to remember the special sound I had heard on the other side. It was slow and calm. Like a very deep breathing. At this period, I had the vision I was going to see in the mountains and we were looking into a valley and he said, 'You are going to bring this music to people.' Then one day, a few years later, I heard the special sound on the other side. I had always been interested in music. I played the guitar and performed in a small

band about near-death experiences and so I was shocked. It changed my life and it happened to me. If people don't believe me, that's OK. I'm not a salesman for near-death experiences. I'm an ordinary guy. I'm into reality. The near-death experience was not a mystical experience. It was a major step that helped in my life. It opened a new dimension for me, a new way of thinking. It changed my relationships with other people, with friends, with people near me, because I realized that it's not other people who create poor relationships. My near-death experience opened me to the possibility of life. I know that I am going to live a long time. But I am not afraid of death now because I know what it is. People are afraid to die because they don't know what's there. But now I know that life will continue after death. ☐

PASSAGE TO PARADISE

VISIONS OF HEAVEN HAVE CHANGED

Tom Marjor was an Anglican priest in a suburban Toronto parish when, in 1962, he took part in a research experiment organized by a British psychiatrist involving the hallucinogenic drug LSD. According to Marjor, his immediate after taking the drug resembled those described by people who have had near-death experiences. Still, Marjor, a journalist since 1971, has concluded after many years of research that near-death experiences are glimpses into the next world. His 1991 book, *Life After Death*, summarizes evidence that death is only a passage into another phase of life. And he contends that the concept of heaven is based on reports from people through the ages who have had near-death experiences. His report

The words, from the well-known hymn, speak of "Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest." . . . The heaven, which is still often sung at funerals today, is part of my boyhood memories as a chorister at a church in Toronto's east end. It held a clue as to the world's meaning. But they had a vaguely comforting ring and the music was rich and haunting. It was only much later that I realized that however comforting it might be to score, the hymn portrayed a vicarious, unreal vision of an absolute that was strangely out of touch with the hopes and aspirations of modern men and women.

This hymn was not alone. You can scan the hymnbooks of all Christian denominations and find that heaven is typically described in terms of celestial domes, gates of pearl, streams of gold and a host of other similar yet highly decorative images. It all sounds like modern church services, in a setting conceived by a concert soloist.

Down the ages, heaven has been imagined in a myriad of different ways by various tribes, peoples and cultures. It has been depicted in terms of a garden paradise, a return to Eden, an endless wedding feast, the ecstatic union of the soul with an divine lover, a "happy hunting ground" where game abounds and the waters run with fish, a place of restoration, healing and reunion with loved ones, or of eternal contemplation of the face of God. Even Charles Darwin, who used to be chaplain to Queen Victoria during the last century, conceived of heaven as an everlasting, explicitly erotic conjugal union with his deity.

But for the Christian world, and for Western

society as a whole, the symbolic language of the Bible, particularly the Book of Revelation, has provided the basic vocabulary for any depiction of the afterlife. For the most part, those verbal symbols and images have come to us filtered through the creative imaginations of poets like Dante Alighieri and John Milton. The great painters of the Renaissance used the stories for any visualization of the same realities.

Unfortunately, given the human penchant for retaining metaphors, allegories and symbols for the truth they are meant to convey, the language used to describe the joys of heaven has tended to solidify. The images have hardened in our consciousness and so have become appendages instead of supports. As the poet T. S. Eliot noted, words crack and strain under the burden we impose on them.

Question: What has to be remembered in all speech about an afterlife as that one is trying to describe the transcendent in the only way we know—in terms of the here and now. The writers of the Bible knew exactly but so, as well as Dante and Milton that there are no words or symbols to do full justice to the vision of what lies beyond. Each did the best he could. Images of golden streets, gates of pearl or nuptial chambers are simply meant to convey that which is unutterably glorious. As the Swiss protestant Carl Jung said after his own near-death experience during a clinical arrest, "What happens after death is so unutterably glorious that our imaginations and our feelings do not suffice to form even an approximate conception of it."

Putting the matter another way, the common factor coming through all the various views of heaven, from those of ancient Egypt to the present, is that they are attempts to answer the question, what would perfect bliss be like? If you are a strict Buddhist, for example, and see the chains to which the ego is prone as the source of all human suffering, it is natural to envision bliss as the extinction of the ego and the end of all distress in a final release, an absorption into the All.

At that point, the skeptics can barely wait to say, "Aha! What this in reality all about is wish fulfillment. People, afraid to face their painful total extinction, imagine the perfect bliss and then invent a heaven to fill the void, the fears or wishes." But this is precisely where the plethora of new information about the near-death experiences offers a radically fresh insight. One of the most significant aspects of this



entire phenomenon is that, while modern medicine, with its ability to save lives that would have been lost, has generated awe, has really increased the number of persons having near-death experiences, the experience itself is universal.

Such an experience is reported in Plato's *Apology*, written in the fourth century before Christ. Around the year 1500, the Finnish painter Hieronymus Bosch overtook his new heaven. *The Ascent into the Kingdom*, in which the ladder turned of light is there for all to see. The literature of the Middle Ages is replete with stories of otherworldly journeys. Now, while some eight million Americans have reported near-death experiences, studies from the worldwide world show that it is no respecter of race, age, color or creed.

Discovery: Researching that during the past four years, in the light of a lifetime study of world religions, has brought me to a dramatic discovery and conclusion. It is now my conviction that it is the phenomenon related to near-death experiences that have convinced humans from ancient times that there is a life beyond the grave, rather than the other way around. Instead of it being the product of an attempt to deal with the enigma of death by projecting

Bosch's views of paradise from around 1500: the familiar tunnel of light

own's wishes into another world, the near-universal belief in a hereafter is, in my view, the attempt to express what has already become known, at different times and in different places, through direct experience.

That accounts, I believe, for the fact that while the near-death experiences of Hindus will differ from those of Christians, and those of Japanese from those now reported in thousands of cases from Eastern Europe, there are core features that remain true of all such experiences. One of these is the absolute certainty and clarity of the transcendental or "otherworldly" nature of the experience. Since a large proportion of those I have personally encountered—and other studies bear this out—have been people with no religious faith whatever, including articulate agnostics and atheists, the power of the near-death experience to enlighten people's minds about the reality of life after death is singularly impressive.

The second core characteristic is the near-universal of bliss. Generally, this is described in terms of feelings of great peace, joy, "being surrounded by an incredible love," or of having one's heart's desire fulfilled. For Jung, it was the vision of a temple where, but he entered, he had the deep intuition he would leave the complex meaning of his life and of life as a whole. For the author of the Book of Revelation, it was being in the presence of God, knowing the river of life flowing from the "throne" of God and knowing there were trees by it with leaves that were "for the healing of the nations."

Unfalsifiability: The third and in some ways most significant feature of the near-death experience is the sense of what theologians would call unfalsifiability. Simply put, the experience has beyond the power of words to express. In the hundreds of near-death experiences that I have now heard, as well as all the hundreds more I have read about, the experience begins by saying something like this: "Look, I'll be with you, but nothing I can say will truly communicate to you what happened to me."

They repeat that caveat when they talk about the way they are now lives past the review before them, about how they feel and how the wrong they did to others or the duties left undone—and yet at the same time know themselves forgiven in the presence of the

face of a temple where, but he entered, he had the deep intuition he would leave the complex meaning of his life and of life as a whole. For the author of the Book of Revelation, it was being in the presence of God, knowing the river of life flowing from the "throne" of God and knowing there were trees by it with leaves that were "for the healing of the nations."

In fact, such experiences open up some possibilities both for religion and science. Both disciplines are locked into rigid thinking inextricably out of touch with the mysteries. Religion needs new symbols and language in which to express its age-old core concepts about the afterlife. Science, especially medical science, which has not kept up with the new unifying advances of physics, needs new paradigms. Reality is much larger and much stranger than either religion or science knew before. □

light and the underlying love. They say it when they speak of communicating with dead loved ones and again when they describe being torn between wanting to remain there and yet being made to know they are meant to return.

It is this basic unfalsifiability or "eliteness" of the experience that brings us back to the differing views of heaven at the life beyond with which we began. Because we have to use the language of faith and the cultural values of our time to express any truth, and since, in the case of the near-death experience (and any other experience of a metaphysical or otherworldly kind), we are dealing with what is essentially unfalsifiable, it is only natural that they vary from religion to religion.

Skeptics: It is only natural, as well, that those who will be much resistance from the rapidly religious to new insights as there is from the rapidly skeptical. Both camps that there may be much to lose. For the skeptic, the evidence of an enormous amount of personal testimony from such a vast range of people—from young children to the aged, from the learned to the illiterate, from every country and century—as extremely threatening. They might have to reassess their whole code, philosophy or world view. For established religions, especially the conservatives and the fundamentalists in every creed, the perceived threat is just as serious. Many have their own version of the Roman Catholic doctrine of the "five joys of the kingdom." If you don't "go to heaven," that way, you don't go at all. The idea that atheists or agnostics are converted into the light and experience love, joy and forgiveness without believing in a particular religious club comes as deeply disturbing.

I speak with some knowledge of both phenomena. My book, *Life After Death*, produced an enormous response. Any opposition, however, has come just as powerfully from fundamentalists as from unbelievers. The most common defense used by the religious right against the near-death experience has been to say that it is the work of the devil. The vision of the light and the new peace, by their account, is a subtle deception sent to lure the "damned" from finding true salvation.

The secular skeptics, blinded for the most part by an unexamined devotion to scientific rather than true science, resort to a more rational response. Any opposition, however, has come just as powerfully from fundamentalists as from unbelievers. The most common defense used by the religious right against the near-death experience has been to say that it is the work of the devil. The vision of the light and the new peace, by their account, is a subtle deception sent to lure the "damned" from finding true salvation.

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The perils of poll-driven journalism

BY GEORGE BAIN

The first paragraph of a story at the April 4 issue of *The Vancouver Sun*—one paragraph or over 13, under the heading, "Canadians don't feel Mulroney can solve the unity problem"—said: "Canadians don't trust Brian Mulroney to solve the constitutional dilemma, a leading pollster said Friday." Unhuh. The second paragraph said, "Survey results by *Maclean's* in March suggested Mulroney had far less credibility than Pierre Trudeau." Unhuh. The fourth paragraph said, "Almost three-quarters of Canadians surveyed said not trust Mulroney to deal with the constitutional dilemma, the latest finding of 21 Canadian and foreign pollsters Friday." Unhuh—in the immortal words of Ray Charles—bup-bup.

The explanatory note is necessary here. *The Vancouver Sun* story, cited on Canadian Press and Southern News, spoke of 11 leaders and named one: the *Maclean's* pollster, which was a C7 story by Wayne Carleton, didn't say how many surveys had been in the poll but published one, and *The Globe and Mail* in a while set into a story by Ottawa bureau member Susan Delaney, said, "Here is how 11 politicians fared." It published a list of 12, it is not true, as pollsters have been known to say, that you can't believe a thing you read in the papers. There are lots of things you can believe. This just happens not to be a good example.

But to continue the not-to-be-believed ranting, which is to say, one rank above the Prime Minister, went to Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Québécois. Certainly, Bouchard has a clear-cut job of ending our constitutional dilemma, but "solving" it which the *Sun*'s lead redership, someone who's not quiet. Solving it, Lucien Bouchard's way would be like prescribing the gallstone as a cure for cancer—undoubtedly it would work, but it's based on the patient. But that's not really the point. The point is that Bouchard has not, is not and is not going to be involved in any present efforts to sort out our constitutional problems. There-

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is not just not popular, he's the least popular boy in the class. But that scarcely qualifies as news.

fore, think 1,500 or 2,000 people to say what they think of his credibility as a problem-solver makes rather a farcical farce.

Or how about Preston Manning, who resided one ahead of Bouchard and two ahead of the Prime Minister? Manning, selected and unappointed, with no track record in constitutional matters, is a person citizen, resident in Alberta when he is not on the road leading his team for the Reform party, which, at the moment, holds one (1) seat in Parliament. In the poll on the "credibility" of the 11, or 13, or 15, Manning was found to have that elusive quality, 27 per cent high, against Bouchard's 34 and Mulroney's 30. Now where Manning was Donald Gert's, premier of Alberta, at 28 per cent.

Having just looked it up, I can say, credibly, that credibility means "worthy of belief or confidence" just about anybody is capable of being believed some of the time. I am capable of being believed quite often, actually, but if I said I had gone over Niagara Falls in a canoe at age 12, I doubt even my nearest and dearest would take that as gospel. If Preston Manning, Donald Gert or David McCreesh (36 per cent), some notably apathetic to Quebec viewpoints, make credible headlines of our constitutional problems, it's a pity that *Maclean's*

Reider's came wasn't on the list, the result would have been interesting.

The thing is that the poll, as reported, made sense only as a popularity contest, for of the purpose was to award the winner a statuette, like an Academy Award, but seriously related to any real-life circumstances. Pierre Trudeau, whatever his credibility might be as an active player, is now on the sidelines. The poll's underlying purpose, at least as judged by the pre-announcement given by the press to that one aspect of the poll, the ratings seemed to be to deliver a political message: Brian Mulroney is not just not popular, he's the least popular boy in the class. But having been stamped on the collective Canadian mind by every newspaper, magazine and television or radio show in the past couple of years, that scarcely qualifies as news, even with the addition of however many illustrations of politicians he's less popular than. The *Globe* gave more coverage to the data of the poll than some others, but, with a sure instinct for the cognitive, still featured the popularity index—the whole at the incredible length of 22 column inches, mostly of nonsense. For example, Delaney reported that most Canadians do not trust the federal government to get more power, but they are far less certain about what should happen to provincial power.... Those results could portend some serious scaffolds when it comes to federal-provincial power talks later this year. Indeed they could, and who isn't they always have. She also reported that only 46 per cent of respondents were aware of the recommendations of a Commons-Senate committee on the Constitution, which meant the rest, a cool 54 per cent, had to be told about them before they could say what they thought the "trend" was. Trivial-sides, then, 38 per cent thought they were too too much, 16 per cent thought they were too little and 34 per cent thought they were just so so right, which seemed discouragingly like the Three Feas.

Spotting her own tracks, Delaney and "re" made a picture of serious constitutional turmoil in Canada. The leadership difficulties of Mr. Mulroney are just one aspect of the turmoil? Unhuh! Looking through the other end of the telescope, it is possible to glimpse some sort of light. The times with the title of minister responsible for constitutional affairs is Joe Clark, appointed by Mulroney, perhaps even in recognition of his own popularity. The Envoys poll showed Clark to be third among the credibles, behind Pierre Trudeau and Aubrey McLaughlin. I have the impression that Clark is responsible for anything. Clark had a 40-per cent rating in Quebec, where the most crucial differences will reside, six points better than Trudeau. Despite the disadvantage of being actually awarded, he was only nine points behind Trudeau with a tidy 31 per cent in the rest of the country, where, I mention, previously, we now even enjoy the approval of the sort of people who consider against French on the back of the credibles leader. If personal popularity is a large factor in constitutional-making, then Clark's standing portend, as we say, trouble! Funny stuff, the poll-driven journalism

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JUNGLE DRUMS

Much of 59-year-old Christopher Okunju's life reads like fiction. Arriving penniless in Canada from Sri Lanka in 1956, he built a fortune on the stock market. But in 1988, he left that world and began a search for himself. Last year, he returned home and wrote *The Man-eater of Pansari*, about his relations with his father. At the party celebrating the book's publication last week, Okunju's ascribed copies for former business associates: "The story of another jungle."

ALL IS FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR

American husband writer Jeff Koons is as famous for his lecherous sculptures as for his marriage to Italian porn star turned performance artist Ileana (the *Life* Photo One) Stoller, 39. In 1990, Stoller and Koons were engaged—until she changed him by offering her body to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in exchange for hostages. But Stoller is pregnant now, and Koons, 37, told *Maxwell's* that they have already decided what to name the child. "If it's a girl, we'll call it Kuno," he said. "And if it's a boy, I've decided on Kirsch."

Koons (left), Stoller: together again

Hats without a home

Faye Lewing is in the spotlight again. Last year, the 54-year-old real estate agent made headlines when she released documents that resulted in a credit-olocaust investigation of the P.C. Premier William Vander Zalm's handling of the \$16-million sale of Portov Gardens, in which he had \$3-per-coat ownership. Vander Zalm resigned two months later. Now, Lewing says that plot is broke. On Feb. 1, she was evicted from her home of 27 years after it was foreclosed by the Greenville Savings and Mortgage Corp. And a few weeks later, the same company seized her trademark hat, a maulin-vlar coat. "I had to come to court in the same hat for five days," said the Victoria-born Lewing, who is involved in numerous lawsuits, including one for fraud. "But the judge said I always look elegant, and that I have the highest standing in his court." Although the hats were later returned, Lewing told *Maxwell's*, "I felt devastated." She added: "I'm in tears all the time now."

Lewing: "I'm in tears all the time now"



Hall: reaching for the musical stars

A sax attack

Warren Hall says that he most wanted to be an astronaut musician. Now, the Toronto-born saxophone player has engineered a spacey first album, *Kiss Under the Moon*. The disc reached No. 3 on New Adult Contemporary charts earlier in the year, and Hall just returned from a 26-month North American tour with Grammy award winner Natalie Cole. Although everything went smoothly, Hall, 28, told *Maxwell's* that there was one surprise: "Bob Dylan showed up for our gig in Scranton and the Americans don't know who he was," said Hall. "But we were too nervous to talk to him."



The young and the restless

At 13, Lisa Jakub is an old pro. Jakub, who has appeared in numerous TV series, just signed a three-picture deal with Universal and will co-star in *Matinee* opposite the relentlessly affable John Goodman, of the TV show *Roseanne*. But *Maxwell's*, Ontario-born Jakub says that she wants to produce, direct and write movies. Added Joyce Jakub, Lisa's mother: "She's in love with the whole field."



Lewing: "I'm in tears all the time now"

B A I L E Y S

BREAKING THE ICE



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Misery's happy face

Hollywood goes to the slums for a new epic

CITY OF JOY

Directed by Roland Joffé

When Roland Joffé decided to shoot a Hollywood movie in the streets of Calcutta, reactions ranged from anger to delight. India's most eminent filmmaker, Satyajit Ray, told him it would be impossible and he best to discour-

age designed to clear the emotional decks and provide instant contrast to the psychological realism that drives him from America. His response was a tarted checking into a Calcutta hotel, a cynic who has shopped around the spiritual avenues and attempted suicide. "I come to find enlightenment," he says. "I've opened the windows and doors of my soul and I haven't found a damn thing."

Local government officials tried to stop him. And after filming began, mass demonstrations often shut down the set. But Joffé, the British director who dramatized *Cruciverbs* (1984) and *The Killing Fields* (1984) and *Amadeus* (1984), persisted. The result, his epic adaptation of Dominique Lapierre's best-selling novel *City of Joy*, is an impressive feat of filmmaking.

There is something undeniably vulgar about spending more than \$20 million on a movie about poverty, and about constructing a vast set of artificial slums in a city that has so much of the real thing. Filming took place both on the set and in the streets. But *City of Joy* is about such constructions. It casts his dad, heros an arrogant American doctor who leaves the value of compassion and a resilient Indian doctor who leaves the power of self-reliance. It unfolds an arc of redemption: "the triumph of the human spirit." But it transcends the Hollywood cliché. Despite the limitations of its star, Patrick Swayze, who is outclassed by a superb Indian cast, it's a compelling saga. And despite some examples of Hollywood excess, including a special-effects moment on the production's location-battlefront, the movie captures Calcutta in vivid and enthralling detail.

Swayze plays Max, a disillusioned American surgeon. The opening sequence, which unfolds in lightning slow motion, shows him watching a young boy die in his operating table. It is the most manipulative scene in the movie, a death



Swayze playing a white knight among the poor

Max's plans to return to the United States go awry when he is beaten and robbed. A peasant named Hasan (Om Puri), who has just moved to Calcutta with his family to search for work, comes to his rescue. Delivering him to a clinic in a half-dead slum community called the City of Joy. When Swayze goes (Palme d'Or), a temerous Irish volunteer who runs the clinic, learns that Max is a doctor, she tries to recruit

him. He refuses, telling her that trying to lead a life in Calcutta is like "trying to drill a hole in water." But Juan (Swayze) has said he finally agrees to work in this clinic for a few weeks.

For Max, being a white knight in Calcutta proves no easier than being a colonist tourist. He soon becomes involved in a violent conflict between the community and the neighborhood mafia, who control rents, jobs and a vicious protection racket. When the clinic begins treating leprosy, the local goldfisher refuses the next Max relieves the community, but the gangster's answer with retaliation, confronting Hasan's militia and terrorizing his family.

Hasan resents Max's interference. And the personal independence of his wife, Rama (Shabana Azmi), who goes to work as Max's assistant, makes him nervous. His only dream is to provide his daughter with a dowry. "It's a small man and that's my life," he tells Max. "Small isn't the word for you, pal." Max yells back sarcastically. "You're a little, brown, sick, greedy, selfish victim. If you want to get paid at me, fine. But that you should get paid at the people who are really using you."

Although *City of Joy* goes out of its way to meet its social goals and it's a series like that it becomes successfully symptomatic of every other Hollywood movie about a white savior who locates Third World people to run up the oppressor. As Hasan, however, Panesar that holds up his end of the bargain. Pulling a realistic heroism through the bustling streets of Calcutta, he delivers an inspired and courageous performance.

Swayze, as noble as does better than might be expected. Casting the gleam he has from *Glenn* in such a weighty role was a controversial move. But Swayze sets with passion (if not depth), showing a vulnerability that reflects a struggle with his own limitations. "My audience were screaming to move to a new level as an actor," he told *Newsweek*. "I was trying to figure out what that level was, and if I even had the ability to get there."

Swayze says that in Calcutta, he felt Max's psychological torment both on and off the set. And the public harassment surrounding the film led right at it. "It's a little story," he said, "when you've got people with banners and loudspeakers screaming. 'City of Joy home.' We had dozens of thousands of thousands of people." Swayze expanded sympathy with the protesters, however. "In their experience," he said, "it's a very Western, one-sided point of view when the film-maker comes in and has the white-boy doctor save the day." But that is not what happens in the movie, he stressed. "If anything, it's the beauty and resilience that these people possess in their souls that give him a reason to want to live again."

Transmitting the material depression of an Indian peasant and the spiritual poverty of an American doctor, *City of Joy* plays a happy face on the world's misery. But, as an extension to Calcutta, the movie is revealing. It explores a region of the world—said of human experience—where Hollywood has seldom ventured. And for that alone, it should not be marred

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

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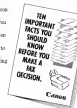
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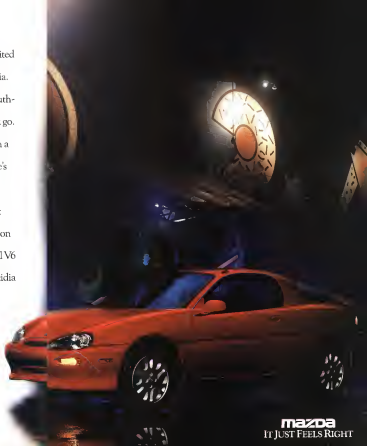
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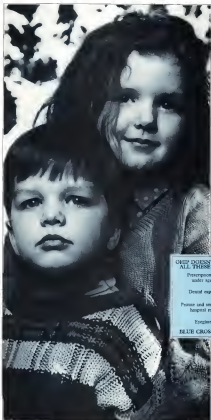
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MUSIC

Songs that sear

Buffy Sainte-Marie aims for timeless lyrics

She was one of the most striking presences of the 1960s. And only, at 51, Buffy Sainte-Marie still has the long black hair, warm, wide smile and distinctively quavering voice that captured her to fans around the world. In Toronto to promote her new album, *Conversations and Lullabies*, Sainte-Marie related witily and a controlled energy. Surprisingly, despite 12 previous albums, she has never before gone on a publicity tour. "My other albums were released and left to sink or swim," Sainte-Marie told Marleen's. "But they all did very well." Now, after a 14-year hiatus, Sainte-Marie has returned to the scene with an eclectic, provocative recording. Produced in her studio at home in Kailua, Hawaii, the album ranges from affecting love songs to searing political protests to celebrations of native life.

Although sometimes pigeonholed as a folk singer, Sainte-Marie has had an impact far beyond the coffeehouses. Her song *Universal Soldier*, popularized by Donovan in 1965, remains a classic antiwar anthem. Scores of singers have recorded her 1965 love ballad *Oh! It's Time for Me to Go*. And in 1982, she was an Oscar for co-writing *Up Where We Belong*, the theme for *An Officer and a Gentleman*. Sainte-Marie says that she learned to write songs with strong power while performing with folk-singers in the 1950s. "It made me want to write the kind of songs that would make as much sense in ancient Rome as they would today," said the Saskatchewan-born Cree. "At least, that's my goal."

The new disc has three hit men again into the limelight, but Sainte-Marie never really retired. For more than five years, she appeared as a regular guest on *Smiles & Tears* with her then-princeps son Dakota, now 15. She continued to write songs and make scores, including a hit-making soundtrack for the acclaimed Canadian film *Where the Spirit Lives* (2000). She notes that she earned another degree from the University of Massachusetts, a PhD in fine arts, before, seven years earlier, received an honors diploma to Universal philosophy and education. And she performed in numerous benefit concerts across North America, many of them on Indian reserves. In fact, *Stowaway*, one of two songs re-recorded

for the album, contains sounds from a powwow ("I walked in the dancer's wide belt, the crowd roared," she said) and held on her own reserve. Papot, 46 km northeast of Regina.

Sainte-Marie did not discover her native roots until late in her teenage years. She was adopted in infancy by a white family and named in a totally white environment. In Maine and Massachusetts after her mother was killed in an accident near Edmonton. "It was considered

series of life with her adoptive family, but described her Cree family as kind and fun-loving. Sainte-Marie says that she has no bitterness. "Only sadnesses," from her displacement and unhappy childhood, joining out that things have turned out well for her. "Bitterness and guilt are the natural byproduct of exploitation, both personal and cultural exploitation," she adds. And like most legends, it has its uses. "It's like doing in Pokotia or India: you can use it for fertility and grow something new, or you can bury it for hate, and end by its light," she said. "But you certainly don't eat it—either guilt or bitterness—or you perish."

Clearly, the singer-songwriter has followed that philosophy, channeling her energies into her music and decades of political activism. Many of her lyrics are indictments of what she calls "money and power politics." In *The Preach of the Golden Rule*, a song about racism, she says: "I'm not racist, I'm just a human being." The "dynamite," the "countdown" and the "acid rain" she corporate capitalists come into our backyards, turn the world to pocket change."

Connecting on this song, Sainte-Marie stresses that native land claims stem from a concern for the land itself. "It's not a tag of war over real estate," she said. "The earth is being strangled right before our eyes. And the soils are being hidden from your eyes." For Sainte-Marie says that as well as exposing native struggles, she tries to show the positive side of their lives—and the humor. She recalled that after spending time at Akwesasne, the U.S. side of a Mohawk reserve during the 1980 Oka dispute over plans for a local golf course, the residents gave her a thank-you gift that was huge: her wall. "It's about her life, her land, her people, and her feelings being down," she said with a laugh. "Yes, it's a golf club."

One of the album's strongest songs, *The Day After the Day After*, has nothing to do with native issues. It was inspired by the testimony of retired intelligence officer Richard Secord, the former American officer who in 1985 acknowledged his complicity in the Vietnam War. "I was the son of a woman whose loved one has been loyal to a corrupt cause and has to pay the consequences. The woman wishes that she could live her husband's life. From the ropes that had reached the role you played, I'd be grateful that you're able to live your life now." Still, Sainte-Marie continues to track the big ones.



Sainte-Marie affecting love songs, political protests

the horrible thing at the time for churches to place Indian children in non-Indian homes." The singer said. In her mid-terms, she unexpectedly met someone who knew her origins, and she soon rejoined her estranged Cree family, an experience that she described as "totally wonderful." Her relatives had no idea where she had been placed, declared the performer. "Many Indian children were effectively kidnapped—it was supposed to be for our own good." She added that she has unpleasant memories



Bartock's pop-up monster, a Swiss army knife and more and more during letters

BOOKS

Thrills on the page

An author creates magic between hard covers

One book features a blue-skinned, pipe-smoking monster that pops out from the page. Another contains a monster that resembles a Swiss army knife, spreading a browser and scissors. The best-selling *Griffin & Sabine*, an omnibus, offers the repetitive pleasure of reading the fictional correspondence between a man and woman who are holding their own letters in their hands. For the past few years, British Columbia artist-author Nick Bartock, 42, has been putting his brand of the book form—and capturing the imaginations of readers. "Nick has this amazing, suggestive gold mine in his head," and Anne Barrows, managing editor of San Francisco's Chronicle Books, which published *Griffin & Sabine* (the Canadian distributor is Raincoast Books) "But he also has this great technical sense. He thinks in books—he thinks the way books are made."

Bartock's devilish humor and wild flights of imagination have made him an unlikely publishing phenomenon. Sales for his pop-up books *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed* (both Penguin) have reached more than 80,000 copies. The best-selling, recently *Griffin & Sabine* omnibus, has been a feature in best-seller lists in *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Maclean's*. During a recent interview at his small, orderly studio in Vancouver,

British Columbia, the artistically creative Bartock displayed plans for several new and unorthodox books. The busy author, who lives near his wife and three children, aged 18 months to seven years, said that he "wants to have 'two-way' books—'You sort of try to show them out with a big smile to get rid of them.'"

Bartock recently played it safe until 1987. Based in London, the art-school graduate had specialized in book-cover design (he did more than 300 commissions) and wrote for John Updike and Philip Roth. But that year, seeking a less restrictive environment, he and his family emigrated to Canada. And Bartock began turning down design jobs to take a gamble on his own books. Then, he and his wife discovered she was going to have twins. "We were chewing our fingers down to the bone before we knew the pop-up books were going to work," recalled Bartock. "The first was like someone chasing me with a red-hot poker."

His subject matter for the pop-ups, the old vein: "There was an old lady who swallowed a fly" and Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky," as well as his latest, an irreverent take on the literary rhymer "Solomon Grundy," arose from a deeply rooted taste for very black humor. "My father brought me up listening to *The Goon Show*," recalled Bartock. "And when

Minsky played, I listened it fully." But the author took a pause from what he calls the "golden childhood" of the pop-ups with *Griffin & Sabine*. The exquisitely illustrated tale brings together his interest in "history of the sciences, alchemy, all of those things that have a kind of mystical importance." The concentration surrounding the book's birth, however, were more casual. "The idea emerged while Bartock was collecting his mail at the Bowen Island post office. 'The person sent to me had an overcoat letter and I had pink mail,'" he said. "I'm thinking, 'You shouldn't complain, you should do something about it—write your own bloody letter to yourself.' As soon as I said that in my mind, it set off a chain reaction."

Bartock never expected to get *Griffin & Sabine* published—"I did it as my own entertainment." He acknowledges that it is obviously autobiographical, with the two characters representing different parts of his own character. Griffin is a melancholy creator of postcards living in London. The apocalyptic, more active Sabine is an illustrator and postage-stamp designer living on a South Pacific island. Their epistolary dance continues in *Solomon Grundy*, to be published this fall, and in a third installment due in 1990.

Since the first book of the trilogy was published, Bartock's life has imitated his art: he has received about 100 letters from readers throughout North America. Like Sabine, who writes, "Island magic works on island souls," Nick Bartock has brought his own island magic, from a tiny dot of land in Howe Sound.

PATRICIA MURPHY in Bowen Island

Maclean's

BEST-SELLER LIST

FICTION

- 1 *Bookend of Desire*, McEwan (1)
- 2 *The End of the Pier*, Glen (1)
- 3 *The Palace Book*, Graham (4)
- 4 *Islands*, Kuper (4)
- 5 *Maclean's*, Corbett (2)
- 6 *Griffin & Sabine*, Bartock (5)
- 7 *The Roof in October*, Jellison (5)
- 8 *Probe*, Sherman
- 9 *The 17 Queen of Sheba*, Brooks
- 10 *Being Sam*, Crockett (7)

NONFICTION

- 1 *Bookend of Desire*, McEwan (1)
- 2 *Solomon Grundy*, Bartock (2)
- 3 *Waters of the Moon*, Graham and Smith (3)
- 4 *Bookend*, Fitch (3)
- 5 *A Return to Love*, Williamson (5)
- 6 *Popcorn*, Blythe (6)
- 7 *Washburne Book*, Blythe
- 8 *Maclean's*, Corbett (5)
- 9 *The Bookend of Canada*, Hering (10)
- 10 *The New Canada*, Wiering (7)
- 11 *Devils*, Corbett (8)

12 *From the West*

Compiled by Bruce Bealman

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The humble ways of the scribe

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

There is a time when one must be honest with one's readers. Inhabited not there in the void, but in the world, one must be honest. They deserve some honesty. The columns, lying behind the newspaper, have an unfair advantage, protected by the kindly editors, guarded by the sensitive lawyers. At some stage, it is best to face up and reveal the secrets.

A young man, standing at a small rural school in southwestern Ontario, writes that he has been assigned a project involving a Canadian author. "The topic that I have chosen is Canadian writers and through my previous research I have concluded that you are not only a thoughtful and thoughtful person, but also a writer to the intellectually and social aware sector of the Canadian society."

This, clearly, is a most perceptive and intelligent young man. "Though I am quite aware and amazed by the form of honor that you and many of your colleagues in Canadian literature have chosen, I still have several questions which would like to ask your grace. It is in the nature of your literary stylings that is the focus of my paper."

Colleagues? Labor? J. Zink? Michele Landberg? Richard Gwyd O'Ri, go ahead, show.

Fair, I am inquisitive as to your background.

My background is that I was born in a tiny Saskatchewan town, near the sea of your loving room, called Hearne. People from Hearne are called Hearners. In fact, the town was so small we couldn't afford a village shop—everyone had to take turns. However, my parents eventually moved to Brantford, Ontario and this improved the IQ of both provinces.

"I wonder if any past experiences or environmental circumstances have caused your serious and razor-sharp wit towards many issues in Canadian society?"

I get your drift. Past experiences include grasshoppers, hail, drought, blizzard, gophers, the Depression and relief packages. This has proven extremely useful in later life in dealing with politicians, stockbrokers, lawyers, share-



on-riding selections, politicians and writers named Bruce.

Environmental circumstances? Having played some small part in preventing disastrous Vancouver from being carved up by freeways, I have watched with some amusement as the city fathers have now managed, via a certain sale of hotels and towers, to practically obscure the view of the second most beautiful harbor on the globe. This, apparently, is because of adoration of Toronto, which long ago stole all its lake from its citizens so that there are children who are born there, named there and die there never aware that the city sits on water.

"Second, I wish to know why you chose this form of column critique as opposed to other literary forms such as a simple column or a radio show?"

This is a simple column. I receive several dozen letters a week stating as to just how simple it is. They read here before me on my

desk. To tell the truth, my major ambition in life is to have a radio show. However, I apparently lack the requisite prerequisites. That would be neither brains, preferably a Scottish accent, an ability to smooth conversations for gossypious and miffed and an ability to carry on lengthy conversations with morose. I regret my deficiencies, since I could be rich doing it.

"Third, I am interested in the use of caricatures to influence or reinforce the ideas that you present in the words around them."

I have never used a caricature in my life. No country that provides, free, John Deere tractors, Wacky Donuts, Polymex Phil Gagliardi, Joe Clark, Harold Ballard, Eugene Whelan, Jesse Belton, Caroline Whelan, Lord Thomson and, as support, John Rogers needs any help from me.

"Also, I wish to know if these caricatures are drawn by yourself, and if they are an attempt to provide another form of information and hence to those few who do not fully understand the hidden messages, changed terms and even simple points in your back-page columns."

Actually, I draw the caricatures myself. My previous writing this simple point. This is a hint to the public: first, to maximize my efforts that we have continued for 17 years now, so we might as well confess.

Fourth, I wish to know if these columns are meant more as a way of poking fun at the politicians or certain groups of society than as a form of educating the public as to their shortcomings, mistakes and often unrelated problems.

How can one possibly poke fun at politicians who are a "revolving-door" city, introduce free trade, correct something called Meech Lake and then first-class flights for men when there are none out of Ghana? It is an impossibility.

Finally, it is my last inquiry to understand the personal satisfaction that you receive from your writings.

The personal satisfaction that I receive from my writings is that I am the luckiest person in Canada—I am the first to read my jokes.

"It is because you write in change Canadian drinks and social circumstances? To inform? To ridicule? To economically survive in this trouble-ridden land?"

By George, I think you've got it. "To economically survive" is a phrase I have been searching for in some time. Not to put too fine a point on it, it is to enable my Gossypious children to survive, since they are right down to their last IMF and try to George. If Papa cracks no more town of Africa.

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